

Eleven 'living in cloud cuckoo land'

Britain alone as date is set for monetary union

From MICHAEL BINYON IN ROME

ELEVEN European leaders yesterday disregarded British objections and agreed to begin the second stage of economic and monetary union in 1994. They also voted to aim for a single European currency by the end of the decade.

Margaret Thatcher pledged to veto any attempt to impose a single currency and said she would never put to Parliament a bill to abolish the pound. "It would be totally against the feelings of the people. A common currency, yes; a single currency by imposition, no."

Later, the prime minister told *The World This Week* on BBC Radio Four that community leaders were living in cloud cuckoo land in fixing a date for stage two of Jacques Delors' plan for monetary union without first deciding its substance. "It seems to be putting the cart before the horse. People who get on a train like that deserve to get taken for a ride."

While M Delors, the European Commission president, was exulting that the European currency unit (ecu)

would become the community's exclusive currency before the year 2000, Mrs Thatcher suggested in another interview that it would take forty or fifty years. Her strong words left little scope for compromise when monetary union is discussed more thoroughly at the full Rome summit and inter-governmental conference in December.

With the Italian presidency determined to quicken the pace of both monetary and political union, the summit had gone further than expected in committing itself to a fixed timetable. The 11 excluding Britain agreed to start stage two on January 1, 1994, and to begin the transition to the final stage by 1997 at the latest. They also agreed to introduce full monetary union, managed by a European central bank, "within a reasonable time".

Britain's isolation was starkly recorded in a note of dissent: "The United Kingdom, while ready to move beyond stage one through the creation of a new monetary institution and a common community currency, believes that decision on the substance of that move should precede decisions on its timing."

Mrs Thatcher believes that the second stage should involve the creation of a new European monetary fund and a new currency, described by the Chancellor as the "hard ecu", operating alongside existing national currencies. The prime minister told the summit that she could not contemplate abolishing the pound because it was far too important internationally. She later told the BBC: "If anyone is suggesting that I would go to Parliament and suggest the abolition of the pound sterling - not."

Mrs Thatcher was also alone in expressing reservations about the summit's conclusions on political union. She described ideas for overhauling EC institutions as "a patch of proposals" that should be left to the inter-governmental conferences in December. Britain refused to endorse proposals to extend majority voting to tax, the environment, social affairs and other issues; to give more power to the European Parliament; to define European citizenship; to work towards a common foreign policy and to

seek a greater community role in security and defence.

The prime minister, who was more than usually outspoken in showing her exasperation with her European colleagues, went on to accuse the French and Germans of protectionism in blocking "for national reasons" a deal on farm subsidies. The EC had had three years to find a negotiating position for the current round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and was quite rightly being criticised for failing to do so.

Mrs Thatcher also accused the Italian summit hosts of incompetence in refusing to tackle the "mess" of immediate questions such as agriculture. But her denunciation met with stony silence. The final communiqué merely affirmed EC support for a positive outcome and asked ministers to try again to reach agreement on farm prices.

Some of Britain's partners no longer seem perturbed by the prime minister's views. "As usual, eventually she will come round," President Mitterrand of France said. "We cannot afford to move at the pace of the slowest." M Delors said: "When history is accelerating, you have to accelerate with it." But Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister and the summit host, said the community could not afford to lose patience with a member as important as Britain. Other countries expressed dismay at the outcome. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, said Britain had been pushed too far and too fast.

On other issues, the Twelve agreed to bring forward emergency aid to Hungary, but put off discussion of possible aid to the Soviet Union until the next Rome summit. They said only that they were ready to do whatever necessary should an emergency arise before then.

On the Gulf, they reaffirmed their insistence on an immediate and complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, and ruled out any government negotiations over the hostages. They also said they would discourage private missions such as that undertaken by Edward Heath.

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Howe hints at a change on EMU

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

WHILE Margaret Thatcher was castigating Britain's European partners yesterday for forcing the pace on a single currency and European central bank Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, hinted that the Prime Minister might yet come round on economic and monetary union.

Asked by Brian Walden on *Weekend World* if Mrs Thatcher would change her mind Sir Geoffrey said that she did not believe in a single currency and was "never going to have it". But he then reminded his interviewer that he and Nigel Lawson had originally shared Mrs Thatcher's views on the ERM, putting all their faith in monetary policy. But as he and Mr Lawson had been successively to International Monetary Fund meetings they had be-

come convinced that ERM entry was a sensible step "and that has now become the view of the entire Government".

Labour yesterday accused Mrs Thatcher of throwing tantrums and putting up a "pathetic and ugly performance" in her reactions to the Rome decision. Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, said: "You don't defend British interests by going around the room wrecking the furniture and breaking the crockery. That is Mrs Thatcher's technique." But he admitted that Neil Kinnock would not have agreed either to the steps taken in Rome.

Accusing Mrs Thatcher, who will make a statement to the Commons tomorrow of alienating the rest of Europe, he said that a Labour government would have been



Single-minded: Thatcher vowing to protect the pound after the summit yesterday

Thatcher may face challenge as leader

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

THE latest opinion poll evidence could revive the previously remote threat of a leadership challenge to Margaret Thatcher this winter.

Since MPs returned to Westminster from the party conference season, Conservative complaints about the prime minister's political conduct and the government's conduct of affairs have grown steadily, notably over education, child benefit and compensation for haemophiliacs infected with Aids by contaminated blood supplies.

Backbenchers have grumbled about an apparently rudderless party and Tory fears have been heightened by the Eastbourne by-election disaster and early reports from Labour-held Bradford, where the Conservatives have a weak by-election candidate. Those fears will be increased by two national opinion polls at the weekend showing an increased Labour lead. However, most Tories have concluded that there would be no challenge to Mrs Thatcher for the party leadership at the end of November.

But ministers are now worrying that a clear softening of American public opinion on the Gulf will be reflected in Britain. Meanwhile, the latest Mori poll for *Times* Newspapers shows the "Gulf factor" improvement in Mrs Thatcher's popularity has evaporated.

Labour's lead, page 2

Soviet envoy strives to break deadlock in Gulf

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq and President Gorbachev's special envoy met in Baghdad yesterday in what was billed as possibly the last chance for a negotiated settlement to the deadlock in the Gulf.

Yevgeni Primakov, aged 60, a Middle East expert, was summoned to see President Saddam yesterday morning after earlier holding talks with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister. He later met Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, before continuing discussions with the Iraqi leader last night. No details were released about the substance of the meetings.

The Soviet mediator, who is on a tour of Arab capitals, said on Saturday before leaving for Baghdad that he was "convinced that the Gulf crisis could be solved without recourse to military force." His mission led to the Soviet delegation at the United Na-

tions requesting postponement of a security council vote, now expected today, on a resolution which would make Iraq responsible for war damages caused in Kuwait. If passed, the latest measure against Iraq would open the way for a follow-up resolution on alleged Iraqi war crimes perpetrated on the emirate.

At the centre of the Primakov mission is the belief in some quarters that Iraq might be willing to consider a compromise over Kuwait, where it would withdraw from most of the country but hold onto the disputed Rumaila oil field and the strategic islands of Warbah and Bubiyan at the entrance of Iraq's only access to the Gulf.

When Mr Primakov was last in Baghdad on October 5, he revealed after talks with President Saddam that Iraq privately was willing to consider a compromise in order to

Labour will end dual role of schools inspectorate

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SWEEPING overhaul of the national schools inspectorate is planned by Labour to raise educational standards. It is also considering attempting to trump the government's scheme for standardised assessment of primary pupils at the ages of seven and 11 by introducing more frequent and more easily administered tests.

In addition, as part of an effort to restore the morale of the teaching profession, higher salaries will be treated as the top education spending priority of an incoming Labour government.

The Opposition's new policy goals were disclosed in an interview with *The Times* by Jack Straw, its chief education spokesman. His remarks indicate that Labour believes that it has struck a chord with the public in identifying education as a key battleground in the run-up to the next election.

Mr Straw sought to steal some of the Conservatives' clothes by making clear that he was prepared to stand up to the teacher unions and to take a tough line with the minority of bad teachers. He predicted an "arms-length" relationship with the unions. Under a compulsory system of teacher appraisal, staff who persistently failed to make the grade would be shown the door.

Mr Straw said that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools, which dates back to 1839, would lose its "unsatisfactory" dual role of advising ministers and monitoring classroom performance under changes planned by Labour. Most of the 455

schools inspectors would be transferred to the proposed new Education Standards Council, which is intended to spearhead efforts to raise standards in the basic subjects of reading, writing and mathematics. Those left would be reassigned and concentrate on advising ministers on policy matters.

Parallel changes would be made among local education authority advisory staff with the aim of underpinning a centrally-led assault on falling standards. Mr Straw said: "The key thing is to make the system more accountable. The apex of that is the Education Standards Council. It will lead to a major reform of the operation of HMI and major changes in the role of the local inspectors in many areas because they will go back to being inspectors."

"HMI fulfils two functions. They are monitors of the system; they are also policy advisers to ministers. There is an inherent conflict between the two roles. We are looking at saying there are two functions which need to be separated: that the job of inspection is an arms-length job from government and therefore the inspectors will come within the standards council."

Mr Straw said that he wanted separate policy advisers to ministers, who would be drawn from the existing cadre of inspectors.

Straw turns, page 4
Ronald Butt, page 12
Education, pages 28-29

Troops sent to troubled Moldavia

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SOVIET interior ministry troops were yesterday sent to areas of Moldavia inhabited by ethnic Turks to prevent conflict with hundreds of armed volunteers from the republic's Romanian majority.

A ministry statement late yesterday said that the region remained tense, but the situation in the regional centre, Komrat, and other towns was under control.

Troops move in, page 22

Threat of Irish election

The leader of the junior coalition party in the Irish government yesterday indicated that the so-called "Dubbinggate" scandal could lead to a general election. Des O'Malley of the Progressive Democrats said that there were circumstances in which the continuation of the current Government "would not be in the long-term interests of this country."

The crisis centres on allegations that the deputy prime minister, Brian Lenihan, lied about telephone calls made to the president asking him not to dissolve the Dail in 1982.

Page 2

Sport cut

About three-quarters of state schools are planning to cut sports lessons, says a report from the Central Council of Physical Recreation which polled 1,800 schools.

Education, pages 28-29

Budget vote

The US Congress finally agreed a 1991 budget after five months of legislative chaos.

Page 10

Graf again



Steffi Graf, of Germany, beat Helena Sukova, of Czechoslovakia, 7-5, 6-3 to win the Midland Bank tennis tournament on the fourth time at Brixton.

Page 38

Power battle

The government faces an embarrassing dispute with directors of National Power, who are fighting a last-ditch battle to avoid being saddled with £450 million of debt before privatisation.

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Jubilee dispute

A dispute is expected to break out this week over the route of the £1 billion Jubilee Tube extension planned to link London's West End with Docklands.

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Flooding in Ballycastle, northern Ireland, yesterday

Great storm takes a sudden turn to the south

By DAVID YOUNG

THE much-publicised storms predicted for today by the Meteorological Office will now be less severe than at first forecast. The office had predicted gales of up to 85mph but a spokesman at Bracknell, Berkshire, said: "Winds in the South of England and the Channel are now expected not to exceed 50 mph."

In what seemed like a foretaste of what was to come, however, parts of Britain were hit by flooding after heavy rain yesterday and 11 people died in road accidents.

The weather forecast issued yesterday by the Meteorological Office predicted that a complex low, which has become centred on north Scotland, would produce gale-force winds in coastal regions over the next few days.

A spokesman said that the weather in Scotland was unrelated to the predicted

severe storms which had been forecast to batter Britain today.

That front, said the spokesman, was now expected to swing to the south of Britain and "will consequently lose much of its predicted force."

The depression which left Newfound-land at 6am on Thursday had been expected to enter a so-called "development zone" in the Atlantic, causing it to deepen explosively, but this did not happen.

The worst road accident at the weekend was at Amersham Road at Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, where six people died and one was seriously injured. The two-vehicle crash happened just before 1am. Thames Valley police said two men and two women were killed in an Austin Metro and a fifth person was seriously injured. The other two victims, a man and a woman, were in a Peugeot car. The

driver of the Metro who died in the crash was named as David Haddy, aged 24, from Barnes, London. The three passengers in the Metro who were killed were his girlfriend, Cathy Gregory, aged 18, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire; Sarah Gregory, aged 21, of Hanworth, London (she was not related to Cathy); and Gary Pearson, aged 25, from Newark, Nottinghamshire, who was staying with David Haddy.

The couple who died in the Peugeot car were a man aged 59 and his wife, aged 60, both from Uxbridge, West London. The only survivor, an 18-year-old girl from Chalfont St Peter, was taken to Wycombe General Hospital.

Continued on page 22, col 7

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Diary, page 12
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HAVE YOU DISCOVERED

'The most celebrated historical novelist of our time' *The Times*

CATHERINE COOKSON

There is more to her than meets the eye.

THE Black Candle

OUT NOW IN CORGI PAPERBACK

THE Gillyvors

NEW IN BANTAM PRESS HARDCOVER



Most state schools plan sports lesson cuts, says survey

By JOHN GOODBODY AND JOHN O'LEARY

AT LEAST 70 per cent of state schools are planning to cut sports lessons, according to a survey to be published today.

The survey by the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) and the Secondary Heads Association has had replies from 1,800 schools. The statistics will add to the debate on the future of school sport in a national curriculum.

One of the most worrying facts is that schools reported a 20 per cent decline in the teaching of swimming, largely due to financial constraints.

Peter Lawson, secretary of the CCPR, which represents the national governing bodies of sport, said yesterday that the report was "extremely worrying". Only 200 of the 2,000 schools sent questionnaires did not reply. Concern about the state of school

sport has led to pressure on John MacGregor, the education secretary, to reconsider a proposal to make physical education voluntary beyond the age of 14, and even to pay teachers overtime through the Sports Council to arrange games out of school hours. An article in *The Mail on Sunday* put the cost of such a scheme at £250 million.

The report comes as the government's working party on physical education prepares to deliver its preliminary advice to the education department in December.

The National Curriculum Council meets on Wednesday to consider the content of subjects in the 14-16 age group. It is not expected to address the status of physical education until the working party has reported. The education department said yesterday that ministers would await the council's verdict.

No comment would be made on spending plans until after the government's autumn statement.

Mr Lawson said that there seemed to be a new mood in the government in favour of increasing participation in sport, particularly in schools. "Both John Major and Chris Patten are sports enthusiasts," he said.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that any extra payment for sports teachers would have implications for teachers' contracts generally.

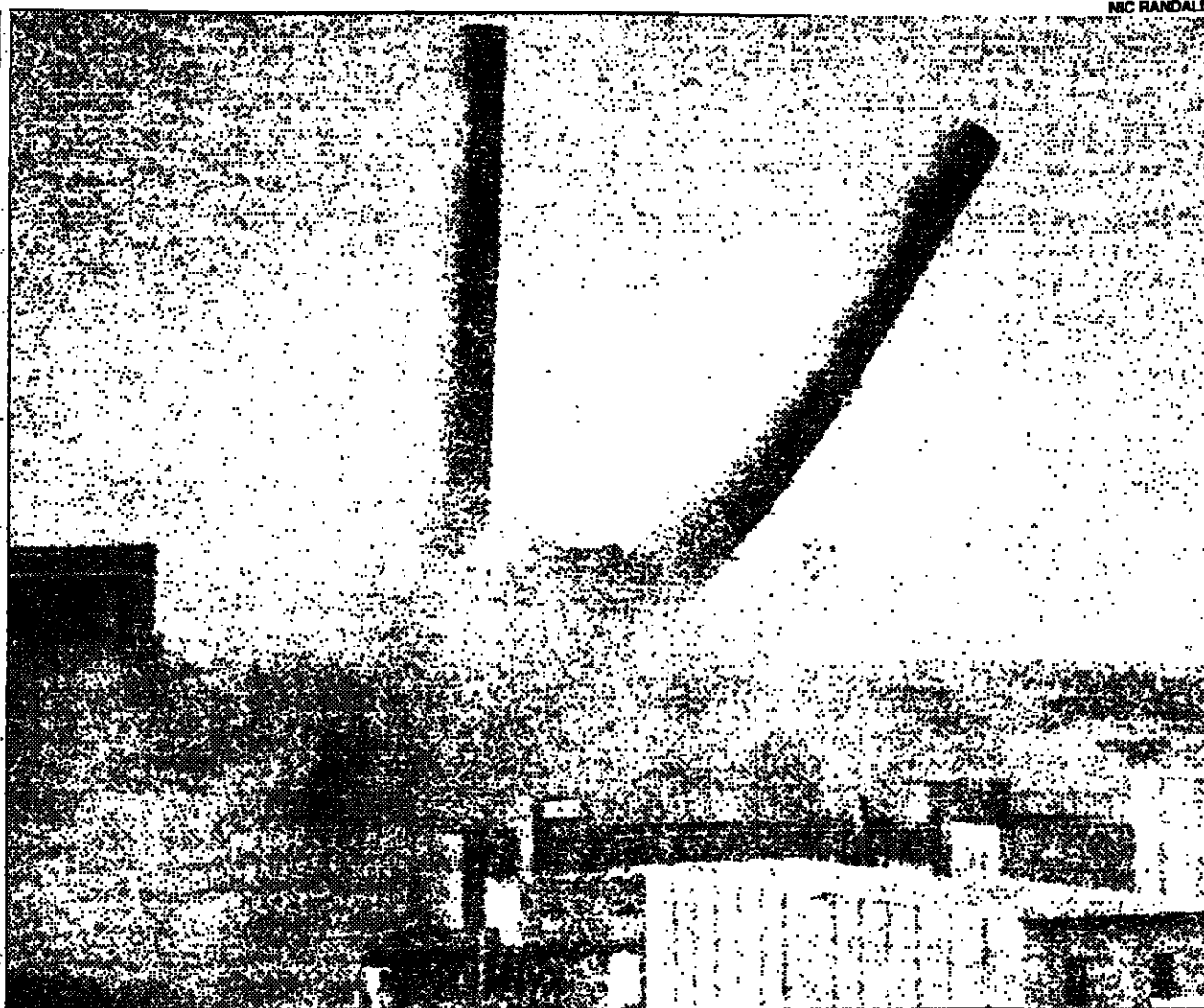
"I would be extremely unhappy about it because it would be such a bit of a patch on a far wider problem," he said. "It isn't just sport that has been affected. Clubs and societies, music and art were all areas where pressure on the timetable was relieved by running activities outside the school day."

With the spread of sports centres he said: "We need to consider whether state schools any longer are the best places to deliver the whole range of sporting activities that are available elsewhere."

Three months ago Elizabeth Murdoch, a leading physical educationist and member of the working party, said there was still a bias towards team games on the curriculum and this would have to change in the 1990s.

Miss Murdoch, who was selected by Richard Tracy, the former minister for sport, to write the original desk study for the government, said that it was vital for schools to "provide for every child". She said it was important that children acquired a wide range of physical ability when young, which they could use for a variety of sports later.

Miss Murdoch has been in the centre of the debate on the decline of traditional male team games since it first occurred five years ago, largely because of the lack of school teachers prepared to supervise extra-curricular sports.



Chimney stacks crumble during the demolition yesterday of Plymouth power station, during which Lionel Cooper, aged 46, of Stoddicombe, Plymouth, who later died, received rib injuries when struck by a large piece of mud. One of the chimneys fell into a rain-soaked quarry, throwing mud in the air. Gales alert, page 1

Football hooligan policy is criticised

By OUR SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE government's line on football hooliganism was yesterday attacked by two specialists ahead of the publication of a report by soccer supporters.

The report on the World Cup by the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) is likely to be critical of the treatment of England followers by the British government and the Italian police. Although the 20,000-word report, which is expected to be published within the next three months, is still being collated, a leading member of the FSA yesterday outlined his criticisms of the arrangements in Italy.

John Tunnon, the joint FSA World Cup convenor, blamed Colin Moynihan, the former sport minister, for stressing to the Italian authorities the need for "coercive measures" to control the English. "As a result, their civil liberties were curbed," Mr Tunnon said. "Moynihan gave the Italians the impression that English supporters were hooligans."

Mr Tunnon said that one particular sore point was an incident in Rimini when scores of innocent English supporters were rounded up after fighting had broken out outside bars on the seashore.

Last week, the FSA received a letter from the Italian ministry of the interior, which appears to have revoked the deportation order on 246 English supporters flown back to Britain under guard.

The Centre for Football Research at Leicester university is also bringing out a report on the behaviour of supporters at the World Cup, part of a five-country European study into hooliganism at the competition. This has yet to be concluded although one of the three researchers, Adrian Goldberg, who stayed with English supporters in Italy, has attacked the role of Mr Moynihan and the National Football Intelligence Unit for identifying Dutch and English supporters as the most likely to cause trouble.

However, this was just Mr Goldberg's opinion and the report, sponsored by the government, has yet to receive other researchers' views.

Education, pages 28-29

NUJ settles dispute with its secretary

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE National Union of Journalists (NUJ) has reached a settlement with its general secretary elect that should end the deadlock in union affairs which followed his surprise victory in an election in July.

Steve Turner, the letters editor of the *Daily Mirror*, had demanded the same terms and conditions of employment as Harry Conroy, his predecessor, whom he defeated by 3,586 votes to 2,346. Mr Conroy, who is now director of the

Campaign for a Scottish Assembly, was able to leave the NUJ with two years' pay and the use of a union car until March. The package was worth nearly £70,000.

The terms Mr Turner has now accepted include a £3,500 increase on his £30,600 annual salary in place of a car which would have cost the union £5,500. He will also get two years' severance pay if he loses his job in mid-term for any reason other than gross misconduct. If he is dismissed for misconduct or alleges constructive dismissal, he will be suspended on full pay for up to a year until the issue is settled in the courts.

As a concession to the union, Mr Turner has agreed that if he loses office in a quinquennial election he will have only 17 months' severance pay, seven months' less than Mr Conroy. The union's national executive accepted the settlement by a vote of 11 to one on Saturday, and has cancelled plans for a fresh ballot in which Mr Turner was to have been opposed by Jake Ecclestone, deputy general secretary of the union.

Sea burial bodies float back

A FRESH look at the way in which bodies are carried out to sea is being demanded after bodies have reappeared off the Cornish coast.

Derrick Pepperell, West Cornwall coroner, wants conditions of sea burials re-examined after a body was found by fishermen in Mount's Bay, Cornwall, part of which is designated for such burials. It is the latest in a series of similar incidents.

Mr Pepperell said: "There have been a steady trickle of sea burials in the bay, and it is fine as long as they do not come back up. I will write to the Ministry of Agriculture to arrange to have something organised so they do not come to the surface again."

Peter Wilkinson, a ministry spokesman, which gives licences for sea burials, said: "I will wait and see if anything needs changing in the regulations when I hear from the people concerned."

Ludovic Kennedy, the writer and broadcaster, has said that he wants to be buried at sea. The former naval lieutenant, aged 70, is now a director of a company that specialises in sea burials.

Fraud squad quiz Wimpey directors

By RONALD FAUX

FRAUD squad officers on Merseyside are investigating links between a senior employee of Wimpey, the construction company, and the former Militant leadership on Liverpool city council over land deals in the city.

The police confirmed yesterday that Alan Worthington, executive director of Wimpey in the North-West and Scotland, and Geoffrey Slater, his predecessor, were among 22 people arrested on Friday. Twenty were later released on police bail during Operation Cheetham, a large-scale investigation into fraud involving land owned by the council. They were not charged with any offences.

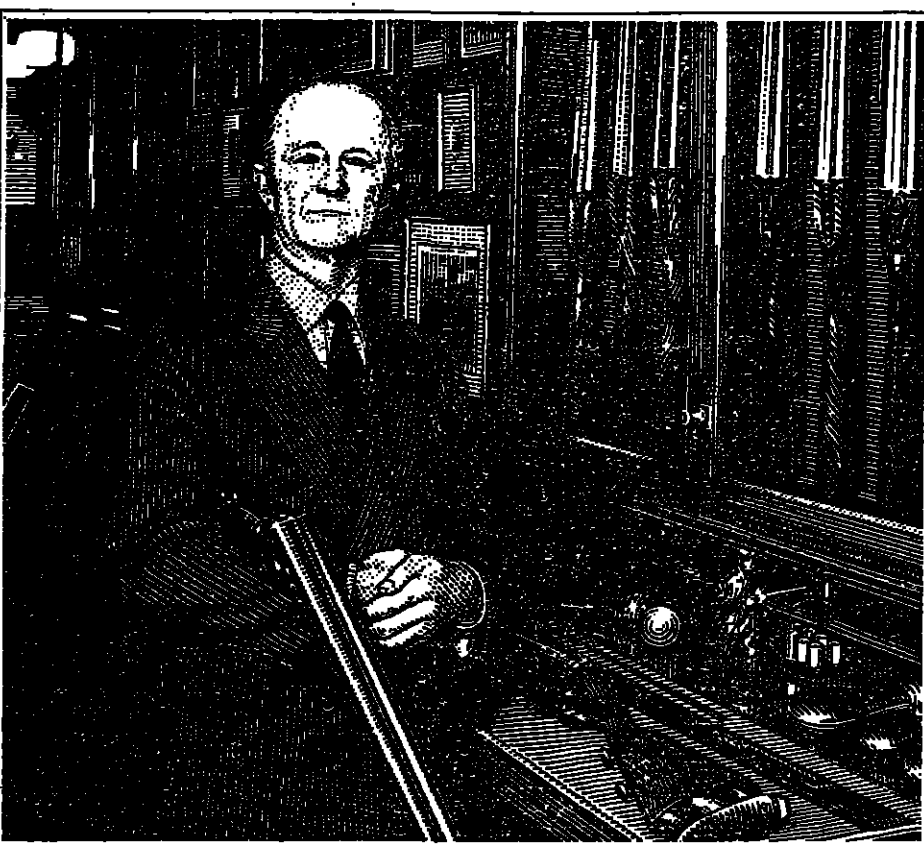
The Liverpool headquarters of Wimpey were raided by police and documents removed. The premises of two property companies, Tentigo and Sterling Land and Property, were also searched.

Among those arrested was Derek Hatton, the former deputy leader of the city council who runs Settleside, a public relations and property development consultancy in Liverpool. Wimpey is understood to have employed Settleside as marketing consultants after Mr Hatton left the council in 1986.

A spokesman for Wimpey said yesterday: "Until we know the full nature of the investigation we shall not be in a position to comment."

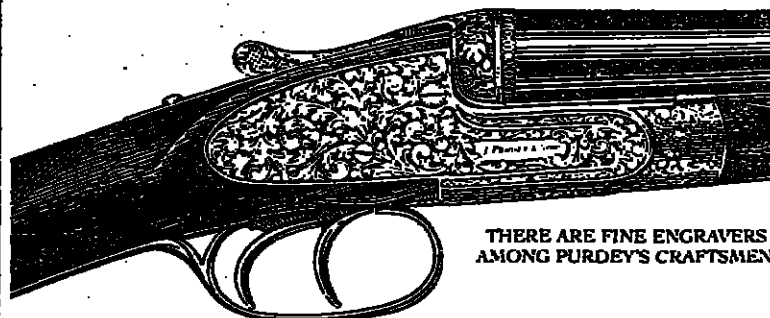
Two men arrested on Friday during Operation Cheetham are to appear before Liverpool magistrates today charged with handling stolen goods. Their names were not released. Merseyside police said the alleged offence was not connected with the fraud investigation.

Hatton, among 22 people questioned by police



Purdey guns have been taking their time since 1814.

Three years could pass before a sportsman sets his sights on owning a Purdey gun. That is how long it could take from order to delivery. But any expert on fine guns would reckon it time well spent.



THERE ARE FINE ENGRAVERS AMONG PURDEY'S CRAFTSMEN.

As Chairman of James Purdey and Sons, the Honourable Richard Beaumont is supremely qualified to confirm this view. And in the Long Room of Purdey's headquarters the evidence is there, all around him.

A Georgian silhouette of the first James Purdey, a barrel-maker in the City of London, looks towards the portrait of 'James the First', who founded the family firm in 1814. Since then, Purdeys have been gun-makers to the Royal Household from Queen Victoria to the present day.

But time has not stood still at Purdey. It has moved with measured precision. The latest example of the work that makes the name Purdey synonymous with perfection is, like every Purdey gun, built to the personal measurements and sporting requirements of one individual. It is an extension of the shooter's arm.

Purdey make only 60 or 70 guns a year and it takes several men many months to make just one gun. But each man is a specialist and each part of the gun is engraved with the craftsman's own initials.

Richard Beaumont also shares this sense of pride in work well done. "Hand-made things have a different quality. They have been created by someone, not by a machine."

For this reason he has complete confidence in his Rolex watch, which he describes with quiet appreciation as "a lovely thing."

When handling one of his own guns or when consulting the watch on his wrist, Richard Beaumont knows that he is in touch with the kind of qualities which he most admires: personal skills that can coax the highest degree of efficiency and beauty from basic materials.

Purdey guns and Rolex watches both take time and expertise to create. But above all, they are fashioned by people who still care to do things well for people who can recognise that care has been taken.



DETONATING AN ACTION.

Harris tweed sheds its hairy image for a gossamer touch

By KERRY GILL

THE Harris tweed industry, hit by one of the worst slumps in its history as the fashion industry craves lighter and more delicate woollens, could be saved by the development of a new "gossamer" weave, said to be as soft as cashmere.

The "super lightweight" tweed, almost half the weight of the traditional variety, is being produced by Bruce Burns from his Stornoway mill in the Outer Hebrides. After showing samples in Paris earlier this month, praise has flooded in from London, Paris, Tokyo and New York.

Development of the new weave is expected to start a new era for the Harris tweed industry which, over the past year, has suffered closures and part-time working as orders, particularly from America, have dried up. The industry provides the biggest single source of income for almost 600 crofters on the island of Lewis and Harris.

The "gossamer" tweed qualifies for the Harris tweed

orb, the industry's trademark, which can be used only if the garment is made wholly from Scottish wool and carded, spun and woven by islanders in their own crofts.

Mr Burns retired as managing director of a Harris tweed company two years ago but, after a survey indicated that people wanted a much lighter and softer cloth, he came out of retirement to set up a new company in Stornoway this summer. Others in the industry doubted whether such a light cloth could be produced by traditional methods.

Within three months, however, Mr Burns had exhibited the gossamer weave to 43,000 people at Premier Vision, the Paris trade show. "Harris tweed has always been a cloth used by gamekeepers and country people, but I have always tried to develop a lighter cloth," Mr Burns said.

"Because of the demand in the fashion scene for lighter and softer fabrics, I opened up in July and installed new

machinery to make the tweed. I set a target figure, and gossamer is 25 per cent lighter than any other Harris tweed.

"It does not look like Harris tweed, but it qualifies for the orb. The response has been amazing and clothes made from it should start coming on to the market within the next two to three months. We want to promote a different image of Harris tweed." Mr Burns employs eight people at his mill but, because of the huge demand for the new weave, expects to start taking on more workers next year.

The image of Harris tweed as heavy and hairy, if robust, has done the cloth few favours in a market favouring lighter, more comfortable materials, and the all-important American market had recently turned against woollens. If the product was right, though, sales would begin to climb again, Mr Burns said. More use of air-conditioning had also encouraged the move towards lighter fabrics.

Only a select group of jewellers sell Rolex watches. For the address of your nearest Rolex jeweller, and for further information on the complete range of Rolex watches, write to: The Rolex Watch Company Limited, 1 Green Street, London W1Y 4JY or telephone 071-629 5071.

Straw turns to a consumerist set text on education policy



Straw: Not afraid to tread on toes to raise standards

NOTHING illustrates more graphically the shift in Labour's thinking over the past ten Thatcher years than the approach it is now adopting to education.

Left-wing buzz words such as anti-sexist and anti-racist education, associated with the now defunct Labour-run Inner London Education Authority in the mid-Eighties, find no place in the party's prospectus for the Nineties.

Instead, in words uncannily reminiscent of much right-wing criticism of state education since the Black Paper days of the late Sixties and early Seventies, the accent is on standards, accountability and the predominance of the consumer over the producer.

Jack Straw, the Opposition's chief education spokesman, can perhaps lay claim more than most in his party to having resisted left-wing fashions, but even he has been on a voyage of discovery.

Here he is, in December 1987, talking about the government's plans for compulsory testing of pupils: "Under the guise of higher

standards, the bill will label children as failures at the ages of seven, 11, 14 and 16, impose selection and segregate children by class and by race... To be fair to Mr Straw, he did say he supported "teacher-based" tests that diagnosed pupils' strengths and weaknesses and that parents had a right to know where their child stood against "some broadly agreed national picture of how a child should be getting on".

However, it was hard to square even that grudging endorsement of rigorous, independent testing with his parallel assertion that he knew of no school that did not carry out formal tests.

No such inhibitions now trouble Mr Straw. In his interview with *The Times* on Labour education policies, he was inclined to exceed the government in advocating a testing regime. The government intends to test pupils in basic subjects at seven and eleven. Mr Straw wonders whether parents want a more regular update. "Does a parent want to know every four years or rather more

Labour's line on schools has undergone major changes. There will be no return to "socialist arithmetic", Jack Straw, the party's education spokesman, tells Nicholas Wood

frequently?" he mused, adding that annual tests might be better.

Nor is Mr Straw any longer much troubled by the publication of test data, which he once said would set child against child. Labour would ensure that the results of individual children would be released to parents, would sample figures to establish unequivocally whether national standards in the 3Rs were rising or falling, and would adjust test scores for social class so that parents could compare schools. Such an approach would stop schools from citing deprivation among their intakes as "an alibi for failure", he said, adding: "That's the case for it's not just a crutch, it's so you can be tougher on schools."

The education standards council planned by Labour would help

parents to assess schools' quality by ensuring that there were measures of "added value", calculated by comparing pupil attainment on entry with that on leaving.

In a curious digression for a Labour spokesman, Mr Straw delivered a qualified lament for the 11-plus, which had given the public a crude idea of what primary schools should be doing. Its abolition, although right, had left a vacuum of that was only to be filled by testing.

Labour's unashamedly consumerist approach, found in much of its policy review, would equally apply to teachers and the teacher unions. A compulsory system of teacher appraisal would be introduced, a move shelved by the government for fear of overloading the system. What will happen

to staff failing the tests? "They should be given support and training, and often they do get better. But if that fails, then they should be given advice that their career lies elsewhere. If they are not willing to find where the door lies, they will have to be shown to it."

Mr Straw said that he was not afraid to "tread on toes" to raise standards, and that firm line applied to teacher unions. Their interests and those of Labour education secretaries would not always coincide and the best relationship was at "arm's length".

Nor was he a lone figure seeking to hold back a flood of sectional interests. "The movement is behind us in all this," he said. "The Labour-controlled local authority associations are very strongly in favour of compulsory teacher appraisal. The shift that has occurred at a national level from being producer-dominated to being consumer-dominated has also been reflected very strongly at local level."

Other Tory measures that would survive under Labour

would be a slimmed down version of the national curriculum and local financial management of schools (LMS), a reform attacked by Mr Straw in the Commons. LMS would be "looked at in the light of experience".

Labour's promises include "the aim" of nursery education for all three and four-year-olds whose parents want it, a certain vote-winner that the Tories seem almost bound to seek to match.

On money, Mr Straw was understandably reticent, given Labour's reluctance to give hostages to fortune. However, higher salaries to recruit and retain high-quality staff would take precedence even over spending on books and buildings.

Some things do not change. Labour would still scrap the few remaining grammar schools and the assisted places scheme and bring grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges back under local authority control. However, Mr Straw says: "I don't see much space for socialist arithmetic."

Fewer women fill senior university posts than in 1980

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN fill fewer senior university positions than a decade ago and are unlikely to improve their success rate in the present economic climate, according to a study by the Association of University Teachers.

A new book on women in the academic world, *Storming the Tower*, shows Britain lagging behind the United States, Turkey, Israel and Norway in the proportion of professorships held by women. In a sample of nine countries, only The Netherlands and Jordan were below the British figure of 3 per cent women professors in 1988.

The last year for which statistics have been published, 1987-8, saw the proportion of women senior lecturers drop to 6 per cent, against 8 per cent at the beginning of the decade. Over the same period the proportion of women lecturers fell from 19 per cent to 14 per cent. Adrienne Aziz, a senior

Women at the top of their profession (%)

Headteachers	40
Publishing directors	22
Circuit judges	19
Heads of BBC TV regions	10
Senior managers in industry	7
Civil service under-secs	5
Professors	3
Vice-chancellors	2

Source: Assoc of University Teachers 1989

official of the association, who contributed the British chapter to the book, said that the increasing use by universities of short-term contracts was worsening an already discriminatory environment. Almost a third of contract researchers were women in 1987-8, compared with fewer than one in seven full-time lecturers.

Ms Aziz said that the masculine environment in many subjects discouraged women from striving for advancement. Although almost 40 per cent of postgraduates are women, fewer than half go on

to an academic career. Prospects for women are particularly poor in science, and no women were promoted in departments of architecture during 1985 and 1986.

"The proportion of women promoted is consistently smaller than the proportion of women in the pool of lecturers from which the promotions are made," she wrote.

"The irony of the situation is that to be 'in the frame' for promotion in the first place, a woman has to be on a permanent contract, not a short-term one, and preferably not in a subject that is perceived by the (male) majority as atypical for women."

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals is in the process of drafting a code of practice on equal opportunities for universities, recommending them to monitor appointments and then take a range of actions to redress any imbalance. A first draft of the code warned universities: "Equality of opportunity is essential to the efficiency and effectiveness of universities, and to good relations among the workforce. Failure to provide equality of opportunity can carry economic costs in terms of grievances, low morale, low productivity and problems in attracting and retaining staff."

Ms Aziz saw the move as a reason for optimism. She expected joint research by the union, the vice-chancellors and the Universities Funding Council to clarify some of the reasons for the imbalance between the sexes.

Storming the Tower, edited by Suzanne Striver Lie and Virginia O'Leary (Kogan Page; £20)

Education, pages 28-29

Help to reach the top

By RAY CLANCY

A NETWORK aimed at helping women to gain more senior management positions in local and central government is to be launched in London today.

Its organisers say an exchange of ideas and information between women is needed to break down the isolation many female managers feel and to encourage young women to aspire to top management jobs.

More than 200 women have shown interest in joining a

members directory. The organisers, a group of women in senior jobs in central and local government, are appalled that there are just five women chief executives out of 400 council posts and at present no female permanent secretaries heading government departments.

Women who have made it to the top of their professions, including Judith Hunt, chief executive with the London borough of Ealing, will speak at the launch.

Woman is top driving instructor

A WOMAN has become the country's top driving instructor, beating 200 male and female colleagues in five examinations for the Driving Instructors' Association.

Barbara Coverdale, aged 43, abandoned her career as a professional musician three years ago to set up the Ladybird School of Motoring in Newcastle upon Tyne.

She sat five two-hour examinations set by the Associated Examining Board, which covered driving theory, teaching practices, law and management, vehicle maintenance and mechanical principles. "It was a bit of a surprise to beat the lads on vehicle maintenance," Ms Coverdale said. "One of the other candidates was telling me he could take an engine apart and put it back together again and I can't do that."

"Coming top was the last thing in the world I expected, but I believe in having qualifications. When 1992 comes along there could be all sorts of regulations and I want to be ready," she said.

There are more women drivers on Britain's roads than at any time in the past, according to a survey commissioned by the Automobile Association. It shows that 37 per cent of motorists are women, compared with 28 per cent in 1984.

The survey found that more than half of female motorists drive fewer than 4,000 miles a year, compared with 26 per cent of male drivers.

House buyers seek out repossessed bargains

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

AS THE slump in the housing market bottoms out, home buyers are looking for repossessed properties at bargain prices from estate agents in London and the South.

Evidence comes from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' latest housing market report, which says that repossessions in the South-East are increasing. In Finchley, north London, the prime minister's constituency, buyers have been asking for repossessed properties.

A total of 14,390 homes were repossessed in the first six months of this year, the Council of Mortgage Lenders says. It expects an increase during the latter half of the year, bringing the total to about 30,000, well above the previous record total of 22,390 in 1987.

Richard MacDonald, of the agent Copping Joyce, reported that in the past few weeks there had been an increase in cash purchasers, both developers and individuals, looking specifically for repossessed properties at bargain prices. A two-bedroom home which two years ago cost £92,000 is now selling for £72,000.

Mr MacDonald said his company had several repossessed properties on its books when the normal figure was one every few months. "We have to get the best price, but it is the best price in the circumstances."

He suggested that the number of repossessed properties was due partly to building price rises and the boom in the late 1980s. It was common knowledge that values were merely verifying, and the building societies were caught out.

Mr Cox added that vendors were again trying to dictate that their property should be significantly increased in price. "For all our sakes let us hope that this time building society values will use their powers and common sense and curtail these inflationary vendors by giving realistic valuations."

Peter Moreton, former chief surveyor for the Anglia Building Society and now a consultant, admitted that price rises in the boom days had caused difficulties for valuers. He denied, however, that valuers had pushed prices up.

Terry Cox, an estate agent based in Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, rejected the accusation that agents had pushed prices up in the boom and were not, therefore, responsible for the financial plight of some property owners since.

"The reason for the price boom was linked to falling interest rates during 1987-88 together with other factors such as the deadline with regard to joint tax relief. However, vendors themselves would increase their selling prices virtually on a daily basis and building society valuers would virtually just verify that the property existed and agree to the selling price. During the boom it was impossible to do all the valuations. It was common knowledge that valuers were merely verifying, and the building societies were caught out."

Mr Cox added that vendors were again trying to dictate that their property should be significantly increased in price. "For all our sakes let us hope that this time building society values will use their powers and common sense and curtail these inflationary vendors by giving realistic valuations."

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Mother in transplant appeal dies

Lorraine Mellor, aged 26, a mother who was the subject of a nationwide appeal to find a heart and lung donor, died yesterday at the Mossall hospital, Manchester.

Mrs Mellor, from Warrington, Cheshire, suffered from cystic fibrosis and was given 24 hours to live when she was taken to hospital nine days ago. A heart and lung transplant was her only hope, but no suitable organs were found.

The National Rivers Authority yesterday blamed a spillage of detergent-laden water into the moat at Castle Park, Mid Glamorgan, for the death of more than 30,000 fish.

Police are hunting two bogus council officials who tried to frighten a woman living in Crynant, West Glamorgan, into paying her late husband's poll tax.

Students at Bristol university have withheld nearly £500,000 in room rents in protest at a 24 per cent increase in them.

Craig Walsh, aged 15, from Stoke-on-Trent, who was convicted of burglary, has been found hanged in his cell at a young offenders' centre at Glen Parva, Leicestershire. An enquiry has been launched.

Jody and Carly McMillan, a brother and sister aged ten and eight from Dunoon, Strathclyde, have been named Bisto Kids of the Year.

Police were yesterday questioning a man aged 25 after a 19-hour siege at the home of sisters Dorothy and Carmen Gomez in Thornton Heath, south London.

Charles Mayne, aged 26, of Colchester, Essex, is to appear before magistrates today charged with the murder of Mark Tansley, aged 18, of Halstead, Essex.

National Savings Premium Bonds winners: £100,000 (19PW 605625, Hordham, West Sussex); £50,000 (34AF 384105, Leicester); £25,000 (12BK 295848, Cambridgeshire).

Funds sought to open kirk heritage centre

AN INVESTOR is being sought to develop the Highland Tolbooth Kirk in Edinburgh as a national heritage centre (John Young writes).

The kirk, a former meeting place of the Church of Scotland, was leased in 1987 to Heritage Projects, whose chairman, Ian Skipper, was closely involved in the development of the Jorvik Viking Centre in York. The company has spent £1 million on

restoration of the kirk, treating dry and wet rot, replastering and replacing windows.

David Lang, the company's managing director, said that with an estimated one million visitors a year passing the door of the kirk it was ideally situated to provide a national centre which would help to boost Scottish tourism. Planning consent had been obtained for a visual display gallery, restaurant and shop.

Qxas would win the black queen. After this devastating shot Kasparov was forced to give up a pawn for no compensation. Indeed his position still remained markedly inferior with weaknesses scattered all

Kasparov's problems were exacerbated when on the 27th move he committed a well known blunder which allowed white's knight to leap into the centre of the board with devastating effect. After white's 28th move Nd5 black could not play 28...Qxd2 on account of 29 Nxf6+. Nor could he capture the intrusive knight with 28...cxd5 since 29

moves the game, was adjourned and Kasparov sealed his 44th move, which was Kg1. Black's position was hopeless and Kasparov resigned the game on Saturday without resuming play. In the final position Kasparov wins very simply by advancing his two pawns on the queen's side, with the threat to promote one of them into becoming a queen. If the black king rushes over to that wing to defend then black's two pawns on the king's flank become exposed to attack.

There were signs that Kasparov was playing well below par. As early as move 12 he made a dubious recapture. Experts present in New York

felt that he should have taken back on c5 with the d6 pawn.

Kasparov white, Kasparov black

White Black White Black

1 e4 Nf6 2 d4 Ng4 3 Nf3 Bg7 4 e5 Qe7 5 Nc3 Bb7 6 Bc4 Bb7 7 Bb3 Bb7 8 Bb3 Bb7 9 Bb3 Bb7 10 Bb3 Bb7 11 Bb3 Bb7 12 Bb3 Bb7 13 Bb3 Bb7 14 Bb3 Bb7 15 Bb3 Bb7 16 Bb3 Bb7 17 Bb3 Bb7 18 Bb3 Bb7 19 Bb3 Bb7 20 Bb3 Bb7 21 Bb3 Bb7 22 Bb3 Bb7 23 Bb3 Bb7 24 Bb3 Bb7 25 Bb3 Bb7 26 Bb3 Bb7 27 Bb3 Bb7 28 Bb3 Bb7 29 Bb3 Bb7 30 Bb3 Bb7 31 Bb3 Bb7 32 Bb3 Bb7 33 Bb3 Bb7 34 Bb3 Bb7 35 Bb3 Bb7 36 Bb3 Bb7 37 Bb3 Bb7 38 Bb3 Bb7 39 Bb3 Bb7 40 Bb3 Bb7 41 Bb3 Bb7 42 Bb3 Bb7 43 Bb3 Bb7 44 Bb3 Bb7 45 Bb3 Bb7 46 Bb3 Bb7 47 Bb3 Bb7 48 Bb3 Bb7 49 Bb3 Bb7 50 Bb3 Bb7 51 Bb3 Bb7 52 Bb3 Bb7 53 Bb3 Bb7 54 Bb3 Bb7 55 Bb3 Bb7 56 Bb3 Bb7 57 Bb3 Bb7 58 Bb3 Bb7 59 Bb3 Bb7 60 Bb3 Bb7 61 Bb3 Bb7 62 Bb3 Bb7 63 Bb3 Bb7 64 Bb3 Bb7 65 Bb3 Bb7 66 Bb3 Bb7 67 Bb3 Bb7 68 Bb3 Bb7 69 Bb3 Bb7 70 Bb3 Bb7 71 Bb3 Bb7 72 Bb3 Bb7 73 Bb3 Bb7 74 Bb3 Bb7 75 Bb3 Bb7 76 Bb3 Bb7 77 Bb3 Bb7 78 Bb3 Bb7 79 Bb3 Bb7 80 Bb3 Bb7 81 Bb3 Bb7 82 Bb3 Bb7 83 Bb3 Bb7 84 Bb3 Bb7 85 Bb3 Bb7 86 Bb3 Bb7 87 Bb3 Bb7 88 Bb3 Bb7 89 Bb3 Bb7 90 Bb3 Bb7 91 Bb3 Bb7 92 Bb3 Bb7 93 Bb3 Bb7 94 Bb3 Bb7 95 Bb3 Bb7 96 Bb3 Bb7 97 Bb3 Bb7 98 Bb3 Bb7 99 Bb3 Bb7 100 Bb3 Bb7

The final position

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THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

Patten faces tough task in squaring emission cuts

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A LONG-STANDING disagreement between Britain and its European Community partners over how to counter global warming will come to a head in Luxembourg today as officials from more than 100 countries gather in Geneva to discuss a world treaty to protect the atmosphere.

Chris Patten, the environment secretary, will need all his negotiating skills in the Grand Duchy if he is to avoid a breach with other EC countries over a common target for limiting emissions of the principal greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂) from coal-fired power stations and vehicles.

At today's meeting of community environment ministers, Mr Patten will not move from Britain's commitment to stabilise CO₂ emissions at present levels by 2005, in spite of increasing pressure for him to accept the EC Commission's 2000 target, which is supported by Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands and France. At meetings of the environment council in March and

June, a serious dispute was avoided only by delaying a decision, but it can be put off no longer.

A common community position is considered vital to the success of the World Climate Conference, which opens in Geneva this morning, the ministerial session of which will be launched a week tomorrow with a speech by Margaret Thatcher. The aim of the conference is to set the international community on a path towards a comprehensive agreement on limiting the industrial gases causing the greenhouse effect. Many observers feel that only the EC can give it the necessary political impetus, as the United States, the Soviet Union and developing nations are all reluctant to acknowledge the potential economic consequences of controlling CO₂.

The gap between Britain's 2005 date and the 2000 target of its partners may prove impossible to bridge. Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland feel that the 2000 target is too much to ask of them as they are at a much lower level of industrialisation. They may be put in a separate category but the northern European countries feel that Britain could, and should, move to their position. If no agreement can be found, the environment ministers concerned, Klaus Töpfer from Germany, Lone Dybkjaer from Denmark, Hans Alders from The Netherlands, and Brice Lalonde from France, are likely to make their feelings public. This would do considerable damage to Britain's environmental image.

There is an appreciation in these governments that negotiations are sticking not with Mr Patten personally but with Mrs Thatcher, who is concerned that an earlier British target could damage the forthcoming electricity privatisation by implying that fewer units of electricity are likely to be sold by the newly privatised utilities.

A 5,000 signature petition was handed in yesterday at 10 Downing Street, calling for urgent action to curb the threat of global warming. It was delivered by members of the United Nations Association, a voluntary organisation seeking to realise UN ideals.

Gould urges joint stance over UK line

By NICHOLAS WATT

EUROPEAN Community environment ministers should agree a negotiating position before today's EC environmental council meeting to prevent the British government from vetoing proposals for a freeze on carbon dioxide emissions by 2000, Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, said yesterday.

In a letter to the ministers, he said that the government was "isolated" on the world stage and accused Mrs Thatcher and Chris Patten, the environment secretary, of "obdurate refusal" to adopt the EC targets of a freeze in CO₂ emissions by 2000. British policy is to stabilise the emissions by 2005.

The environment department rejected Mr Gould's claims and said that the EC commission was "out to provoke a squabble".

British Rail arouses European envy

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

COMMUTERS accustomed to criticising the railways for high fares, unpredictable services and antiquated rolling stock would be astonished to discover that Continental rail managers are asking British Rail's advice about how to run their rail networks.

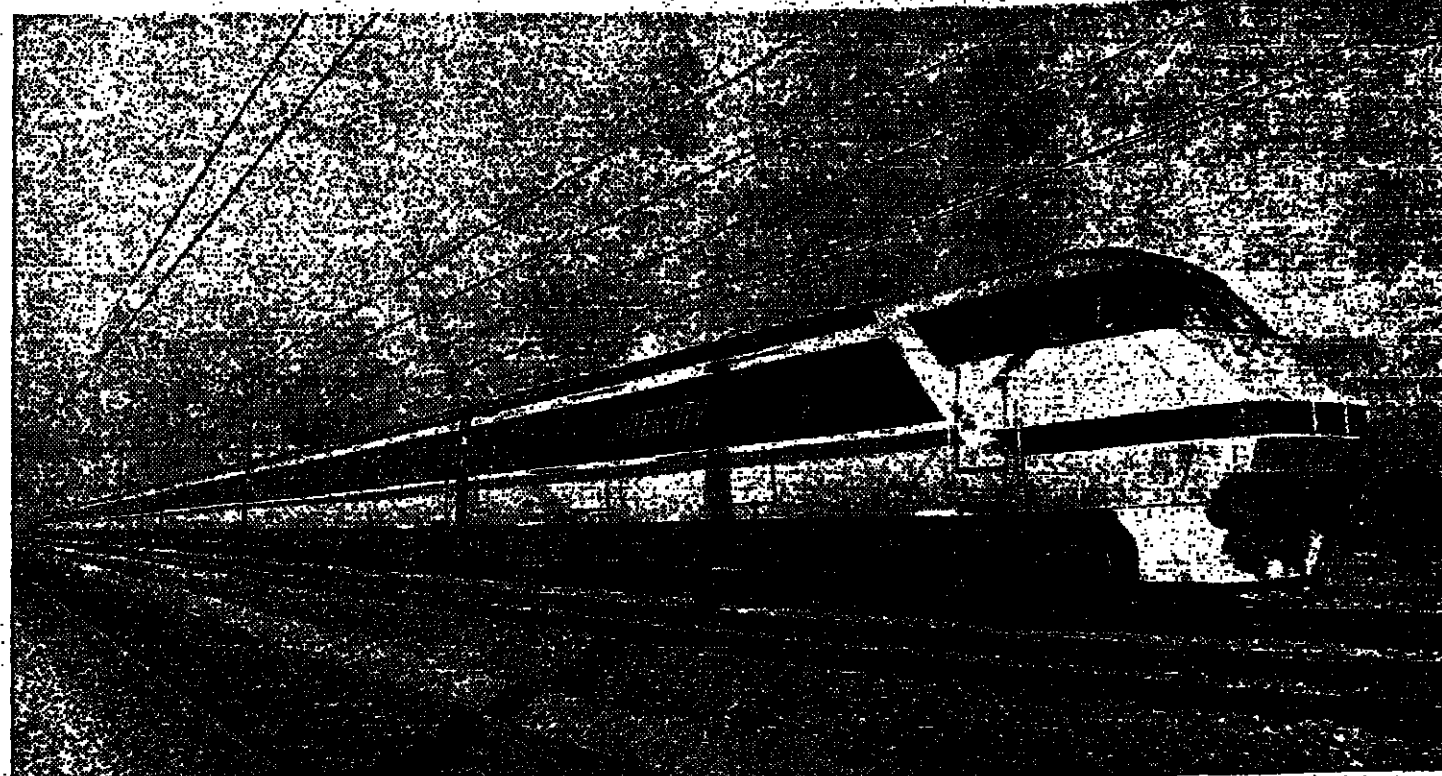
During the past 12 months, a succession of French, Spanish, Swiss, and Dutch rail managers have arrived in London to find out how British Rail emerged from the 1980s with one of the highest productivity levels and one of the lowest operating costs among railways in Europe.

Continental rail managers do not share what appears to be the British public's low opinion of British Rail. On the contrary, British Rail's ability to provide long-distance, commuter and cross-country services, without huge government subsidies, and at a fraction of Continental costs, is hailed as miraculous.

Since reorganisation in 1982, which saw the introduction of InterCity, Network SouthEast, Provincial, Railfreight Distribution and Parcels, British Rail has been forced to work in a commercial environment. Subsidies have been cut, costs reduced, productivity has been boosted and the real cost of running the railway progressively shifted to the user. The gradual transition from a lumbering state-owned monopoly, cushioned by the taxpayers' largesse, to market-sensitive public enterprise, left to its own devices, has been painful and controversial.

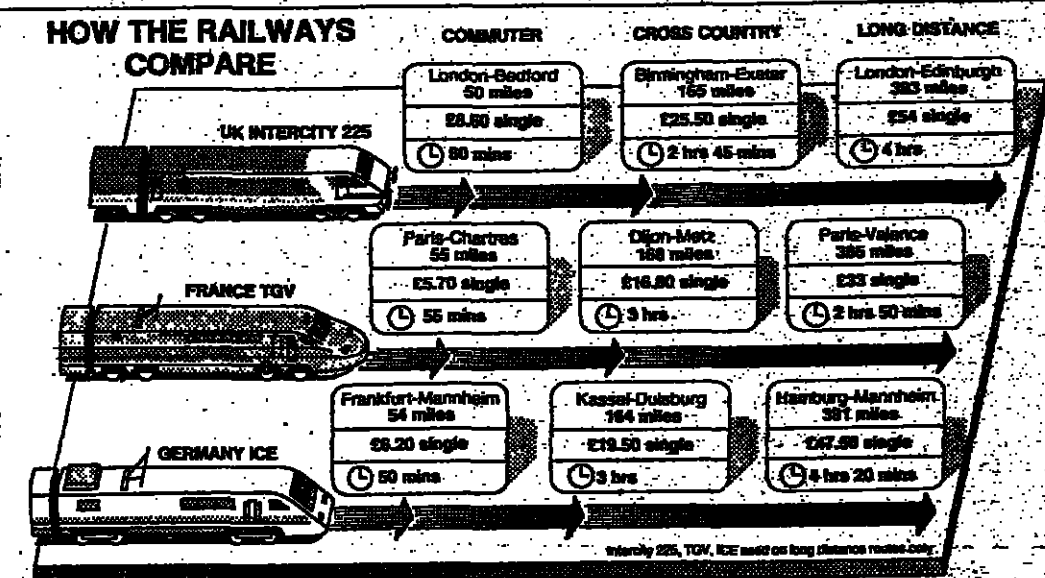
Rail managers have had to learn the disciplines of the market, while enduring the wrath of commuters faced with successive fare increases — sometimes without any improvement in services. Simultaneously, opposition parties have challenged the wisdom of subsidy reductions and fare increases at a time when growing environmental concerns have placed a premium on the promotion of public over private transport.

The Community of European Railways, representing Europe's rail authorities, says British Rail gets a subsidy of £1.44 for every train kilometre (0.62 of a mile) worked, compared to £5.94 in Germany and £6.70 in France. But British Rail has reduced its operating costs to £7.69 per kilometre worked, compared to £13.87 in Germany and £12.01 in France. As a result, ticket prices for British Rail's long-distance, commuter, and cross-country journeys are higher than those for



British Rail's InterCity 225 speeding from Leeds to London at the weekend. "Best value for money among high-speed trains"

HOW THE RAILWAYS COMPARE



British Rail's flagship InterCity 225 begins services between London and Edinburgh in May. Journey times will be reduced to four hours. The French TGV can complete a similar journey in two hours 50 minutes, while Germany's InterCity Express (ICE) will take longer.

According to Roger Ford, technical editor of *Modern Railways*, "the InterCity 225 is by far the best value for money among Europe's new generation of high-speed trains". The InterCity 225 cost £9,000 a seat to develop and build, compared to £15,000 a seat for the TGV and £21,000 a seat for the ICE, he said.

The interest shown by Continental rail managers to British Rail's "commercial approach" to railway management is a testimony to the efficiency gains made during the 1980s. It is also a tacit admission that, in the face of declining government assistance, they too are being forced down a similar cost-cutting road.

Operating on the edge of efficiency, however, has drawbacks. A decline in economic activity can have a marked effect on passenger receipts, threatening long-overdue investment programmes. Efficiency gains tend to cut little ice with passengers, who have to put up even longer with dirty, overcrowded, late and cancelled trains.

Fastest model railway? page 16

similar journeys in France or Germany, many of which are kept low by hefty government subsidies.

If British Rail had the £3 billion or so annual government subsidy given to French or German railway systems, instead of its present subsidy of about £500 million, ticket prices could be reduced to Continental levels with ease. However, British Rail officials say, the cost would be almost two pence on the basic rate of taxation, the loss of the financial discipline which has

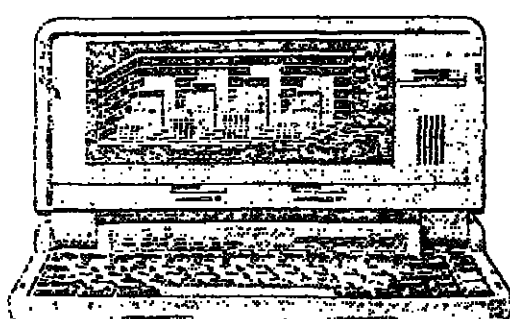
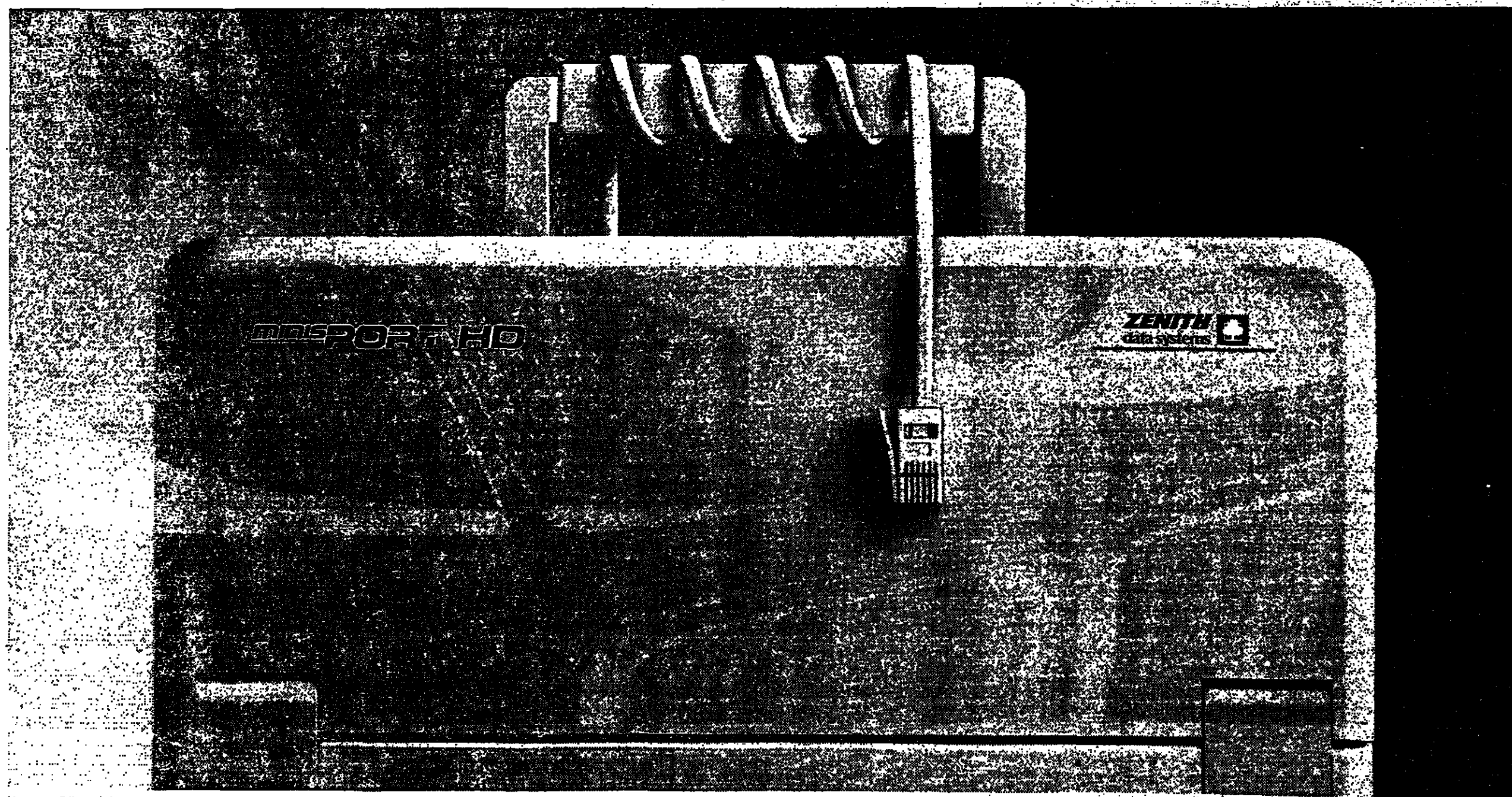
brought about productivity and efficiency gains, and a return to the anomalous situation in which, for example, low income groups in Manchester subsidise the journeys of affluent commuters in London.

Although squeezed between falling subsidies and the rigours of the market, British Rail has continued to match, and occasionally exceed, the performance of its Continental counterparts. International comparisons show that British Rail runs more high-speed trains, defined as over

100mph, than any other network in Europe, with the exception of France.

The scope for building high-speed railways like the French TGV and Grand Vitesse (TGV), which is commercially viable in its own right, is limited by the size and population density of Britain. Consequently, British Rail has focused on the more pragmatic task of running faster on existing tracks. British Rail leads the world in that technique, an achievement all but eclipsed by the glamour of the TGV. When

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Rome summit leaves Britain cast in role of EC double loser

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN ROME



Jacques Delors, architect of economic and monetary union

BRITAIN was a double loser at the Rome summit. On issues where Margaret Thatcher wanted action, such as farm prices, Italy was said. On matters London wanted left until the December inter-governmental conferences, plans were agreed that virtually pre-empted all discussion.

The summit, originally called to discuss emergency aid to the Soviet Union, put off a decision until December, insisting that the Kremlin make a success of the economic reforms now being undertaken.

But the Twelve agreed that the situation in Eastern Europe was critical because of the huge oil price rise brought on by the Gulf confrontation. The community is to advance immediately a billion euros (£1.4 billion) scheduled for Hungary in November, and said it was determined to support democracy and stability there.

The community's failure to take a strong stand on the breakdown of talks on farm subsidy cuts was denounced by Mrs Thatcher as a failure to get to grips with the real problems facing the EC. But the Italians were determined to keep the discussion on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to a minimum: partly because they feared, correctly, that Britain would use the issue to ridicule steps to political union, and partly because Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, did not want to alienate France and Germany, the two obstacles to agreement on Friday.

Their support for the setting of a

either on monetary or political union.

Ironically, Britain, which long resisted the calling of either conference, yesterday became their chief defender. It was there, Mrs Thatcher insisted, that decisions must be made, and the summit should not pre-empt the debate. In this she found some support, especially from Denmark, Ireland, The Netherlands and other countries who have qualms about what they see as a Franco-German attempt, with Italian connivance, to have their own ideas dominate the future discussion.

Signor Andreotti denied there was a conspiracy by the "troika" of France, Germany and Italy to accelerate EC integration. "We did not set out to circumvent the difficulties, but rather to tackle them to allow the IGCs to start on a solid basis," he said.

But Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, explicitly confirmed that acceleration was indeed the aim, and President Mitterrand of France said progress on European integration could not be dictated by the speed of the slowest.

In the end, even Britain's friends abandoned her. The Danes, though angered by Italian tactics, agreed to go along with the setting of a starting date for economic and monetary union and to set out the aims of political union. To vote against that, they explained afterwards, would have looked like agreeing with the substance of British objections.

Other countries also having doubts were reluctant to join the British camp. Portugal insisted it would remain in line with its partners. Greece also committed itself to beginning stage two of the Delors plan in 1994 despite its crippling economic problems, while Ireland, whose doubts over closer defence co-operation made yesterday's outcome hard to follow, nevertheless said this could be squared with its traditional neutrality.

The main winner from the summit was Italy. All leading politicians here have reacted with fury to the charges of disorganisation and posturing. Gianni De Michelis, the expansive foreign minister, has been particularly hurt by accusations that the presidency has achieved little. Although he was one of the people originally advocating caution in handling Mrs Thatcher, her isolation was sweet revenge for him.

German Chancellor Kohl quietly demonstrated Germany's new muscle at the summit, the first since unification on October 3, and secured almost everything he wanted.

Herr Kohl said the bloc should press ahead towards full political union and indicated that Germany would play a key role in shaping the continent's future.

He managed to prevent detailed discussion of German and French objections to cuts in farm subsidies, which have prevented the community from agreeing proposals to put to the Uruguay Round of GATT world trade talks.

Other key decisions on proceeding with political union, rejecting separate deals to free Western hostages in Iraq, and renewing pledges of economic aid to the Soviet Union also went Germany's way. Herr Kohl, his self-confidence boosted by his success in bringing about unification largely on his own terms, dismissed suggestions that the community should aim only to become a more open and efficient economic bloc.

"For us Germans, it is important... that the main goal of future developments in Europe should be political union," he told a press conference.

Herr Kohl sketched out his vision of a federal Europe with a single currency, an independent central bank modelled on Germany's powerful Bundesbank, a strong parliament, and common defence and security policies. (Reuter)

Leading article, page 13

Three stages to monetary union

THE following is the edited text of a statement on Economic and Monetary Union at the European Community summit, which ended yesterday. The text was approved by 11 of the 12 leaders attending, with Britain dissenting.

For the final phase of Economic and Monetary Union, 11 member states consider that the work on the amendment of the Treaty (of Rome) will be directed to the following points:

- For economic union, an open market system that combines price stability with growth, employment and environmental protection and is dedicated to sound and sustainable financial and budgetary conditions and to economic and social cohesion;

- For monetary union, the creation of a new monetary institution comprising member states' central banks and full responsibility for monetary policy. The monetary institution's prime task will be to maintain price stability. The institution as such, as well as the members of its council, will be independent of instructions. It will report to the institutions which are politically responsible.

With the achievement of the final phase of economic and monetary union, exchange rates will be irrevocably fixed. The Community will have a single currency — a strong and stable Ecu.

The second phase will start on January 1, 1994, after:

- The single market programme has been achieved;
- The treaty has been ratified, and, by its provisions;
- A process has been set in train designed to ensure the independence of members of the new monetary institution;
- The monetary financing of budget deficits has been prohibited and any responsibility on the part of the Community or its member states for one member state's debt precluded;
- The greatest possible number of member states have adhered to the ERM.

The European Council recalls that, in order to move on to the

second phase, further satisfactory and lasting progress towards real and monetary convergence will have to be achieved, especially as regards price stability and the restoration of sound public finances.

At the start of the second phase, the new Community institution will be established. This will make it possible:

- To strengthen the co-ordination of monetary policies;
- To develop the instruments and procedures needed for a single monetary policy;
- To oversee the development of the Ecu.

At the latest within three years from the start of the second phase, the commission and the council of the monetary institution will report to the Ecofin and the General Affairs Councils on the functioning of the second phase and on the progress made in real convergence, in order to prepare the decision concerning the passage to the third phase.

The treaty may lay down transitional provisions for the successive stages of economic and monetary union according to the circumstances of the different countries.

The United Kingdom is unable to accept the approach set out above. But it agrees the overriding objective of monetary policy should be price stability; the Community's development should be based on an open market system; that excessive budget deficits be avoided; and that there should be no monetary financing of deficits nor the assumption of responsibility on the part of the Community or its member states for one member's debts.

The UK, while ready to move beyond stage one through the creation of a new monetary institution and a common Community currency, believes that decisions on the substance of that move should precede decisions on its timing. But it would be ready to see the approach it advocates come into effect as soon as possible after ratification of the necessary treaty provision. (Reuter)



Summit talk: Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, centre, going over some points with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, left, and the foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, after the European summit meeting in Rome yesterday

European leaders call for UN chief to make hostage-rescue mission

By MICHAEL BINYON

EUROPEAN leaders yesterday ruled out any government negotiations or Heath-type missions to rescue hostages in Iraq. Instead a declaration issued at the end of their summit meeting here asked the United Nations Secretary-General to visit Baghdad to negotiate the immediate departure of all hostages.

Reaffirming their solidarity in achieving the freedom of all foreign citizens trapped in Iraq and Kuwait, they denounced the "unscrupulous use" Iraq was making of them in an attempt to divide the international community. Such a manoeuvre, they said, was in contempt of the most basic humanitarian rules, and could only complicate a solution.

The declaration said: "They affirm their determination not to send representatives of their governments in any capacity to negotiate with Iraq the release of foreign hostages, and to discourage others from doing so."

The Twelve EC members also expressed their deep concern at the continuing deadlock in the Gulf, the destructive occupation of Kuwait and the repeated violations of diplomatic conventions.

They promised "scrupulous adherence" to the UN embargo, and said they were ready to consider "additional steps in accordance with the UN charter".

In another declaration embracing all the current conflicts in the Middle East, they also said the lack of progress in the Arab Israeli dispute was "a source of deep concern". They called again on

Israel to live up to its international obligations on the treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories, and urged it to co-operate with the UN inquiry into the Temple Mount deaths.

"The tragic events that have occurred in Jerusalem show once more that the status quo in the occupied territories is unsustainable." They also deplored the tragic acts of violence against Israelis, and appealed for calm.

The EC leaders also condemned the continuing violence in Lebanon, called for full implementation of the Taif agreements, and full independence and sovereignty for Lebanon. They were ready to help reconstruct the country.

They welcomed the restoration of relations between the Twelve and Iran, and called for a strengthening of ties between the Arab world and Europe. The EC also gave cautious endorsement to an Italian proposal for a conference on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, saying trust must be fostered in the region to establish stability, security, civil and political rights and to curb the arms race.

Meanwhile, President Mitter-

rand of France denied categorically that his government had made contacts with Iraq to resolve the Gulf conflict peacefully (Reuter writes).

Mitterrand, speaking at a news conference here, said there had been "no contact with Iraq, no delegation, no emissary".

French television said at the weekend that Claude Cheysson, the former French foreign minister, recently held secret talks with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, prompting Baghdad to announce the release of all French hostages. The 327 hostages are expected to fly to Paris today.

Iraq has said their release was a gesture to France for its constructive attitude to the conflict, which it compared to the "beating of war drums" by the United States and Britain.

France and its Gulf allies said the move was a crude attempt by Baghdad to divide the international coalition which insists Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and release all foreign hostages.

"I say it to all of you... no mission, no delegate, no commission. France has kept to its obligations," Mitterrand said at the end of the EC summit.

Newspapers in Italy, which currently holds the revolving presidency of the EC and initiated the summit declaration, have suggested that France has been dealing with Baghdad behind its partners' backs.

"Of course all this arises because the French hostages are to be given back. I suppose that since certain countries have not had the same gesture, questions have been posed. But Iraq has its own reasons," Mitterrand said. "If anyone says we have had contacts or an envoy... I say no!"

Individuals who went to Baghdad last month and succeeded in securing the release of a few French hostages "were French but had nothing to do with the government or with me", he added.

● ATHENS: Greece said yesterday that Iraq had allowed 10 Greek hostages with health problems to leave the country, leaving 14 others and four diplomats behind.

Gulf stance, page 10

Appeal for Rwanda backing

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN ROME

BELGIUM has asked France, Germany and The Netherlands to help in the setting up of a proposed African intervention force for Rwanda, the Belgian prime minister, Wilfried Martens, said on the sidelines of the European Economic Community summit.

Rwanda has asked the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to put together a force to police a ceasefire between Rwandan government troops and rebels who entered the country from neighbouring Uganda at the beginning of the month.

Mr Martens said he had received a telephone call from the OAU secretary-general, Salim Ahmed Salim, saying that European aid was essential for the setting up of such a force.

The Belgian prime minister,

who reaffirmed that in any event, the Belgian paratroops will leave Rwanda on Thursday, said such aid could take the form of financial or logistical help, although the OAU had not yet stated exactly what kind and how much help it would like. According to Mr Martens, the request could be for 20 jeeps and three helicopters.

He did not indicate what the response had been to the Belgian request to the other three European states, saying only that a country has indicated to us that for it to be able to send military aid, it needed the approval of parliament.

The Belgian government has said it is withdrawing 535 paratroops it sent when the troubles started in order to protect Belgian nationals. A ceasefire was sup-

posed to have gone into effect in Rwanda Wednesday, but the fighting is reported to have continued.

Five Christian missionary nuns trapped in northern Rwanda since early this month have been evacuated. A French nun was brought out first by the French embassy in Uganda. The other four nuns, three of them Spanish and one Chilean, all of the Catholic Missionaries of Christ Jesus, said later in Merama Hills, Uganda, that they had been treated well by the rebels, who had written to the Ugandan authorities to allow them to travel to Kigali through the Ugandan border post of Katuna.

They said there were no more foreigners left in the rebel-held areas of northern Rwanda, but there were about 5,000 local people in rebel areas.

Deadlock as strike paralyses Hungary

FROM ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

HUNGARY slipped deeper into political and economic trouble yesterday as the country faced a fourth day of almost total paralysis, with public transport halted and many border crossings blocked. Talks between the government and striking taxi and lorry drivers appeared to be deadlocked.

Although the drivers, who are demanding the reversal of recent petrol price rises, lifted their blockade yesterday to allow through a trickle of traffic and supplies on main roads and across Danube bridges in Budapest, they remained parked near by, ready to resume their protests if the talks break down.

The government, which first refused to consider revoking the decision, has already caved in and is offering a compromise deal involving a two-tier system with lower prices for drivers and weaker layers of society, like the elderly and unemployed. But the taxi unions say they are holding out for a 12p across the board cut

to bring prices down to 50p per litre.

The climbdown has reinforced the view that the taxi blockade has grown from a limited work stoppage to a general expression of discontent over economic policies, and has tapped a widespread feeling that the government cannot stop the country from sliding further into financial chaos. "We cannot respect and trust such a government because it has no coherent policies," said one taxi driver who joined hundreds of others parked outside the parliament building.

The government maintains that the blockade is an "illegal act" carried out by a minority which is "terrorising" the nation and has accused the opposition party, the Alliance of Free Democrats, of supporting the strike and bringing the country close to collapse. Geza Jeszensky, the foreign minister, yesterday raised the possibility that Arpad Goncz, the president, might be brought before the constitutional court because he

appealed to the government to temporarily suspend the price rises.

Panic buying and hoarding on Friday has left most food shops empty and the authorities say there is only a three to four day supply of petrol, prompting fears that the stoppage could lead to social unrest.

Emotions are running high. Yesterday several thousand noisy pro-government demonstrators converged on parliament and the labour ministry, where the talks are taking place, chanting: "Long live the government" and "Give the people back the bridges."

One woman in the crowd denounced the Free Democrats and other "liberal Jewish scum" for causing the crisis and said the people would not tolerate a Jewish government.

So far police have been able to keep order although some people have voiced concern that clashes could break out if the blockade continues during the week. President Goncz has said he would not

under any circumstances call in the army to end the strike.

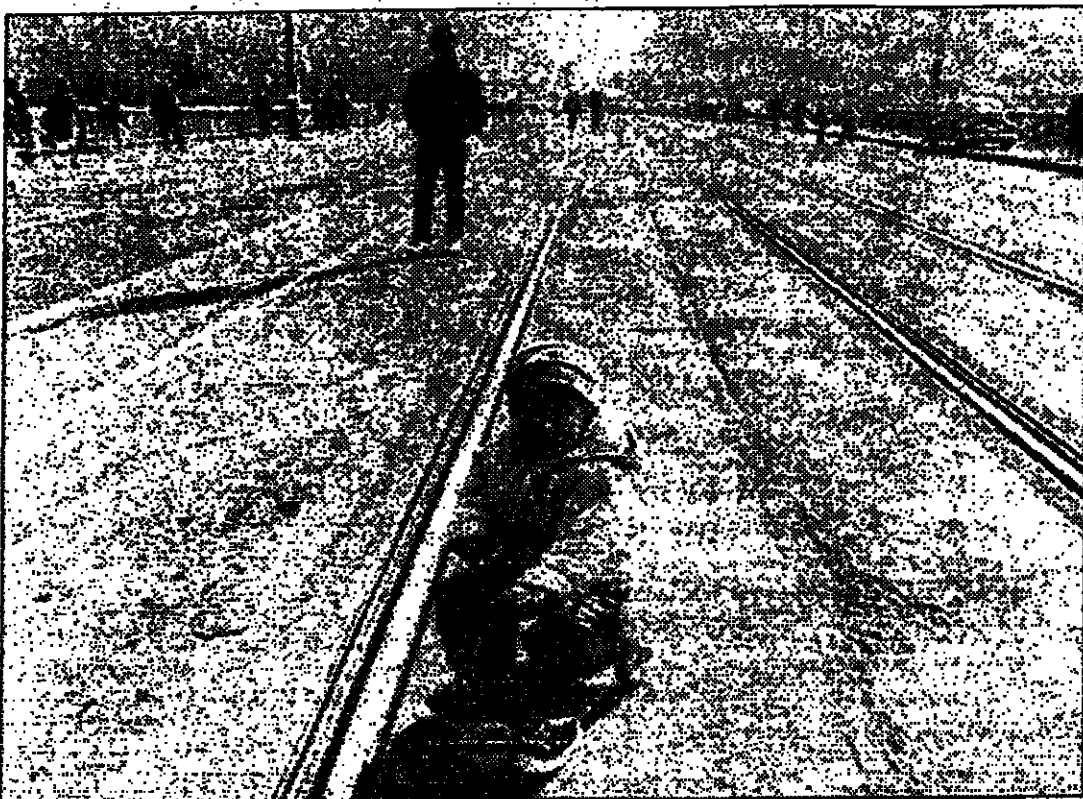
Sympathy for the stoppage is still strong. Many people came out over the weekend to set up mobile soup kitchens in the streets to feed the drivers.

Hungary's image abroad as the most stable nation among the new central European democracies, and the most promising for Western investors, is likely to suffer dramatically.

Mr Jeszensky told journalists that the strike had grave implications for the country's prestige. "What is at stake is not only the creation of a market economy but our fragile democracy," he said.

Inflation and rising prices were a natural result of the attempt to transform the state control economy to a market one.

The crisis has been compounded by the virtual absence of Jozsef Antall, the prime minister, who is in hospital for what has been described as a minor operation and has not been seen in public since the strike began.



Safe streets: a child rides her tricycle between the tram lines on the Arpad bridge in Budapest, secure in the knowledge that all traffic has been halted by the strike



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As indeed are the vast majority of Britain's 6 million dog owners. (In a recent survey, over 90% of those aware of the issue supported a registration scheme.)

Sadly, dog cruelty is on the increase and the dogs can't speak for themselves.

But the message from the public is loud and clear: Registration is better than extermination.



Handwritten text in Arabic script: "لا بد من التسجيل"

Labour ousted by National party in New Zealand

FROM RICHARD LONG IN WELLINGTON

NEW Zealand's National party swept to victory in this weekend's elections, winning a 39-seat majority in parliament, the biggest ever achieved.

Jim Bolger, the National party leader, becomes the country's fourth prime minister in 15 months.

Nearly half the Labour cabinet were ousted as the National party won 68 seats in the 97-seat single chamber parliament. Labour took 28 and the New Labour party one.

After six years in power, Labour was routed in an overall swing of 10 per cent. Individual swings were much higher in Wellington, and Auckland, which turned savagely against the government.

While public opinion polls for two years had shown the government to be trailing badly, the extent of the defeat astounded many. In all, the government lost eight of its 20 cabinet ministers, several other ministers, the parliamentary speaker, his deputy and both whips.

The loss of the west coast seat of the speaker, Sir Kerry Burke, was a particularly wounding rebuff for the Labour party, which was spawned in the coal mines and industry of the region. Labour's caucus has not been as small since 1931 - before the first Labour government came to power.

Mike Moore, the outgoing prime minister, even had trouble conceding on election night. He phoned so early, just two hours after the polls had

closed, that Mr Bolger was not on hand to take the call.

Mr Bolger, declaring the win to be "quite emotional, quite humbling," urged all New Zealanders to work together to address the tremendous problems facing the country.

He said he would hasten the usual 14-day transition period, name a cabinet, probably on Wednesday, and take power by the end of the week. He said parliament would be called together before Christmas so that important legislation, including plans for labour market reform, could be introduced.

He promised to "open the books" a phased unveiling of government briefings papers to make public the extent of the economic situation - details which went undebated during the election campaign.

The new prime minister, who is 55, is a farmer, the son of Irish immigrants, a Catholic father of nine and a conservative.

With his Irish farming background, his pedestrian campaigning style and his "Hicksville" seat in the remote North Island hill country, he has been nicknamed "Potato Head" after some unfortunate caricatures. Even his aircraft used during the election campaign became known as "Spud One".

But for all these taunts, his uninspiring manner and his habit of tripping over words, Mr Bolger is respected by colleagues. He is very much a

family man, and will be the third practicing Roman Catholic prime minister in predominantly Protestant New Zealand.

A measure of Mr Bolger's conservatism lies with his refusal to travel with any female staff on any overnight assignment. He considers it could lead to unfortunate rumours.

Mr Bolger can be expected to reiterate the National party's belief in collective security and will move swiftly to improve relations with Washington, strained as a result of Labour's ban on visits by nuclear warships in 1985.

Political observers consider he will have problems, in a caucus of this size, in controlling factional differences. A battle over economic policy is being predicted already.

Mr Moore, who seized the Labour leadership only eight weeks ago in a desperate attempt to improve the government's fortunes, said he watched the fall of colleagues' seats with great sadness. But he had pride in what they and the fourth Labour government had been through and the reforms they had introduced.



Fighting talk: Ahmad Shah Masood, the strongest Afghan rebel commander, vowing to launch co-ordinated mujahedin assaults on weak government targets to end the stalemate in the decade-long Afghan civil war. He said, near Peshawar in Pakistan, that the United States had endorsed the new strategy

Poll violence as Bhutto candidates are swept aside

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN LAHORE

AFTER a crushing defeat in parliamentary elections, Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was also routed in local elections in all four provinces on Saturday. The polls - marred by widespread violence in which 36 people were killed and 107 others were wounded - have given the nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) an overwhelming majority in the Punjab province.

The alliance is also in a comfortable position to form governments in coalition with some other smaller parties in three other provinces - Sind, North West Frontier and Baluchistan. In the Punjab, the largest province, Ms Bhutto's party won only 11 of the 240 assembly seats. The IDA won 228 seats in the PPP's worst electoral defeat.

Although the PPP did not boycott the Saturday polls, most of its supporters did not vote, mainly because of frustration at losing the national assembly elections. Aitzaz Ahsan, a prominent PPP leader and one of the few party candidates who retained a national assembly seat, said voters had lost faith in the fairness of the polls. The PPP faced the most unexpected defeat in its stronghold in Sind province, where it failed to

win a majority. In North West Frontier province, previously dominated by the PPP, the party was totally routed by a coalition of Awami National Party and the IDA.

At least nine people died in violence in Sind. The worst incident was reported in the Nawabshah district where Murtaza Jatoi, son of the caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and who had defeated Asif Ali Zardari, the husband of Ms Bhutto, in the national assembly elections, escaped an attempt on his life in an armed ambush.

Mr Zardari, aged 38, was meanwhile yesterday sent to Karachi Central Jail when a court refused to extend his remand period. He is accused of abetting the abduction of a businessman for ransom.

By sweeping the local polls just three days after its triumph in the parliamentary polls the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance has now established a total political superiority.

There are clear indications that the alliance will elect Nawaz Sharif, aged 41, as its candidate for the prime minister when the newly elected national assembly meets for its inaugural session next week.

Security alert in mosque dispute

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

HUNDREDS of thousands of security forces have mounted the biggest security operation in Uttar Pradesh, northern India, since independence in an attempt to protect a small, rundown mosque in the holy city of Ayodhya tomorrow.

Hindu hardliners are threatening to storm the unfinished 16th century building, which is hidden amid a maze of dusty roads in Ayodhya's teeming bazaars. At least 3,000 people are believed to have been arrested in Lucknow, the state capital and Mulayam Singh Yadav, the chief minister, has told the 250,000-strong security force on duty "not to hesitate in firing to quell the mob".

The dispute is one of the most potentially dangerous communal issues to erupt in Uttar Pradesh, India's most densely populated state, where most of the country's 110 million Muslims live in squalor. Hindu zealots say 100,000 people have infiltrated the state to storm security lines tomorrow to try to knock down the mosque.

India's government, headed by Vishwanath Pratap Singh,

the prime minister, faces several critical tests over the next ten days as it struggles for survival. Mr Singh's leadership of the National Front, the five-party coalition that makes up the government, will be challenged on Sunday when the parliamentary party meets. Three days later the government will face a confidence motion in the Lok Sabha (lower house).

And hard decisions have yet to be made to cope with increased oil prices as the cost of basic goods soars.

Since the government cannot survive without the backing of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, which has withdrawn the support of its 86 MPs over the mosque dispute, India faces either a general election or a radical political realignment.

Most MPs would prefer to avoid an election; President Venkataraman, a respected octogenarian with a steady influence over India's volatile political scene, might propose the formation of a national government to see the country through the caste and communal divisions.

Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Congress (I) party, is the key figure in what happens next. So anxious is he to avoid an election that he would probably be willing to keep the government in power, so long as it was not headed by Mr Singh, an adversary who was once a cabinet colleague.

The final option, if all else fails, will be for President Venkataraman to call an election in late December or early next year. There is still a sense of political exhaustion after the last election less than a year ago, and there is deep fear that the emotions of another poll would unleash even greater communal and caste confrontations.



Singh: facing challenges to his leadership

Falklands plea on oil exploration

BY ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Falkland Islands has asked the British government to declare a continental shelf around the islands so that it can sell licences for the exploration of oil and other minerals.

Its legislative council voted unanimously to request the change, which would extend British sovereignty to include a large area of seabed. William Fullerton, the governor, who presides over the council but does not vote, will pass it on to the Foreign Office. It may be seen as an embarrassment, creating a further issue on which Britain has to choose between displeasing the islanders or harming links with Argentina, which were restored in March.

If Britain accepts, Buenos Aires will doubt its seriousness about the more co-operative mood which has emerged. Argentina claims sovereignty over the islands and the seabed. A refusal would add to discontent in the

islands caused by Britain's unwillingness to extend the 150-mile fishing limit around the islands to 200 miles. A downturn in revenue from squid fishing licences, partly caused by the inadequacy of the limit, has increased the need for alternative income. Some geologists believe there may be large offshore oil or gas deposits, and coal onshore.

Whitehall sources described the question as "premature" on the ground that the islands' government has not yet passed legislation to permit exploration licences to be issued. But Ronald Sampson, the chief executive of the Falklands, said legislation was at an "advanced draft stage". He said: "The target is to see it passed before Christmas".

The shelf would follow a median line between the islands and Argentina. Elsewhere it would be determined by geological contours, in some places exceeding 200 miles.

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Tardy Albanian reform fuels fears of Romanian solution



President Alija dismissive of calls for privatisation

EVEN without the dramatic defection last week of Albania's most respected writer, Ismail Kadare, few Albanians can pretend the country is not facing a critical six months.

The summer invasion of embassies is unlikely to be repeated in the near future, thanks partly to the rapid building of high walls around the diplomatic quarter. The embassies, with the spirited exception of the Greek, have shown they are happy with the new arrangements. Until the new American embassy, expected early next year, takes over the present Italian embassy villa, an old American property which the Italians have only rented, the quarter will be silent. But with the American arrival and the imminent installation of a Soviet embassy in the former East Ger-

The slow pace of change in Europe's last bastion of stalinism is threatening to provoke a further round of violent unrest, Richard Bassett reports from Tirana

man mission, that may change. The memory of those July days weighs heavily on Albanians. For students, young workers and, most importantly, the young technocrats who make up a significant proportion of the ruling elite, Kadare's defection has confirmed what in the July exodus they only feared — that the tentative reform process of the last year is not enough. "There is no point talking about economic and political reforms if there is no dismantling of ideology," says one academic. "The elections planned for later

this year will not be enough. On the streets are thousands of 26 and 27-year-olds who want profound change." The polls will be multi-candidate, but not multi-party. It remains to be seen whether they will satisfy the frustrations of the young.

In Tirana and the Adriatic port of Durres, textile factories underline the grip of 40-year-old dogmas in Europe's last stalinist state. Scores of girls feverishly work on looms last used in the rest of the continent more than 60 years ago. Above the rattling machinery, red

poster after red poster demands "eternal vigilance against the enemies of Albania". Those enemies, as a terse communiqué issued on Albanian television stated, now include Kadare.

Muhammed Kaplani, a deputy foreign minister, said: "Kadare was a spoilt child. Kadare had every privilege. He should remember that his home is Albania. But he clearly thought he was no longer a simple Albanian."

Beneath such stinging criticism lies the fear that Kadare now, far more than Prince Leka, the son of the late King Zog, is a political leader in exile capable of being the focus of any movement to destabilise Albania.

Gramoz Pashko, an eminent economist and friend of Kadare's, said: "I shall miss him — though not for long, for I am sure he will

be back soon." One of Kadare's last poems, called "Insufficient Truth", written last spring, refers to a struggle which forces him to leave. Kadare, like some others close to President Alija, called for greater democratization, but according to at least one middle-ranking bureaucrat here, Mr Alija continues to see privatization and democratization as the "Trojan horse of imperialism".

"We know we have problems but they must be solved slowly. Albania's conditions are unique," says Ilic Gulati, a senior lawyer whose worked abroad and is playing an important role in developing relations with the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Albania is hoping that the CSCE meeting in Paris will agree to allow Tirana to participate as a full

member. At present, it has only observer status. The CSCE decision is crucial, for if membership is not forthcoming it could spark off another wave of protest at their young people's failure to integrate the country in a process which places great emphasis on European values and human rights.

The spectre looming over the ruling elite, however carefully suppressed, is the fear of what one official referred to as "a Romanian solution". Dr Pashko says: "Something has to be done quickly. Anything could trigger off more unrest and the most important thing for Albania is to avoid bloodshed."

The next six months will tell whether the small steps taken in the economic sphere can be paralleled in the political arena.

Congress and Bush reach compromise on budget

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE 101st Congress, ending five months of partisan warfare and legislative chaos that appalled America, finally agreed a 1991 budget at the weekend and wearily left Washington for the last time before next week's elections to choose its successor.

The House approved the package by 228 votes to 200 at dawn on Saturday, and the Senate did the same that night by 54 votes to 45. President Bush said he would sign it for the good of the country, even though it contained elements "I had to gag (at) and digest".

In a final flurry of votes, Congress also approved the first key legislation in 13 years to reduce acid rain and atmospheric pollution, and the first comprehensive revision of immigration law in 66 years. The latter will end restrictions forbidding entry to people on the grounds of political belief (as happened to Graham Greene, the novelist) or homosexuality, and raise immigration ceilings from 500,000 a year to 700,000 from 1992. More visas will be issued to people from "traditional source" countries such as Ireland, Poland and Italy, and highly-skilled professionals from western Europe will find it easier to gain entry.

On the surface, the 101st Congress has been one of the worst in memory. The first of

its two years was dominated by the ethnic scandal which led to the downfall of Jim Wright, the House Speaker, and the second by a budget fiasco which led many to question its ability to govern. However, with the mood yesterday one of relief, the reviews were not universally bad.

Some commentators argued that the underlying reason was that the Congress was the first in a decade to confront, not sidestep, the accumulated economic problems of 10 years' self-indulgence. In the final analysis, it produced the biggest budget deficit reduction package, with tax increases and spending cuts totalling \$492 billion (£253.6 billion) over the next five years. "It was the Congress when reality started to triumph over rhetoric — a Congress when a reckoning on the Reagan years began," the columnist Haynes Johnson wrote in *The Washington Post*. "Painful though it was to watch, this Congress and this president began to face and make decisions on problems that had long been postponed. Deficits do matter, they admitted. Taxes do have to be raised if debt ever is to be reduced."

Tom Mann, director of governmental studies at the Brookings Institution, said the budgetary chaos had to be set against "the magnitude of the economic and the political problem they were trying to cope with. On balance, the 101st Congress may have achieved more than anyone had a right to expect".

The first hard steps were taken to bring a rampant deficit under control, and to redress some of the social and economic inequities of the Reagan years which disproportionately benefited the rich. Tom Foley, the House Speaker, said his colleagues had taken some "courageous... heroic" decisions so close to election day, and added: "People ought to take some hope from that process instead of dumping all over it."

The Congress began with the Democrats in disarray after a third successive Republican presidential victory. It ended with them united, generally perceived as the party of fairness, and on the right side of the taxes issue for the first time since the early days of Reaganomics. The Republicans left Washington fragmented and with the Bush presidency in disarray.

Polls and US deficit, page 12

Pope rejects celibacy rule change

Rome — The Pope has rejected changes in rules of celibacy for Catholic priests and said that "the sometimes tragic problem of the lack of priests" must be faced by other means (Paul Bompard writes).

He also accused some Catholics of misinterpreting the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and thus causing a loss of identity among many priests and "losses to the church which have hit the pastoral service and the priestly vocations, in particular the missionary vocation".

Rushdie protest

Kathmandu — Nepal's communications minister has asked the Nepali language weekly, *Jangpoo*, to stop serialisation of a translation of Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* because it had hurt the sentiments of the minority Muslim community (A Correspondent writes). The weekly says it will continue.

Donation claim

Sydney — Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the former Queensland premier whose National party government was exposed last year for corruption, is facing prosecution over a donation allegedly received while in office (Robert Cockburn writes). He said: "I am utterly astonished. I will fight."

Ukraine primate

Moscow — The Russian Orthodox Bishops' Council has established a separate church primacy for the Ukraine (Mary Dejevsky writes). The former metropolitan of Kiev, Filaret, a candidate for the post of patriarch earlier this year, was elected to the new post of metropolitan of Kiev and all the Ukraine.

Leader confident

Abidjan — Millions of people voted in Ivory Coast's first contested presidential elections yesterday, with the opposition immediately alleging widespread cheating. President Houphouët-Boigny, aged 85, Africa's longest-serving leader, said he was sure of victory. (Reuters)



Flying high: Heinz Rahn, chairman of Lufthansa, and wife Edith, arriving yesterday at Tegel airport as the German national airline resumed regular flights to Berlin after a 45-year ban. Lufthansa was barred under the occupation rights of the allied powers

Democrats toughen stance on Gulf

By MARTIN FLETCHER

NEARLY a third of Democratic congressmen sent a letter to President Bush at the weekend declaring "emphatic" opposition to American military action in the Gulf.

Pointing to recent reports and briefings, including last week's disclosure that a further 100,000 American troops may be sent to the Gulf, they said they believed that Washington "has shifted from a defensive posture and that war may be imminent".

Whereas only 33 Democrats signed a similar letter to the president nearly three weeks ago, this statement was signed by 81, indicating a mounting congressional concern that is also shared by some Republicans. "The fact is that we're headed toward conflict," said Richard Lugar, a senior Republican member of the Senate foreign relations committee, last week.

However Mr Bush, speaking in Honolulu at the weekend, said he believed that the prospects of a peaceful solution had improved because the international force lined up against Iraq showed "we

are deadly serious" and had forced President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to take "another look". Mr Bush did not elaborate.

With Congress adjourning yesterday for the next two months, the 81 congressmen also demanded that the administration refrain from ordering military action without first obtaining congressional authorisation.

Earlier this month, members of both parties in the Senate foreign relations committee asked James Baker, the Secretary of State, to give such a commitment, but were rebuffed. Mr Baker argued that it would restrict the administration's ability to respond quickly to any attack by the Iraqis or to launch a surprise attack itself, and also infringed on the president's rights as commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Mr Baker and Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, gave a similar reply at closed meetings with House and Senate members last week, undertaking only to consult "extensively" with Congress.

Palestinian workers return as Israel lifts entry ban

FROM PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

THOUSANDS of Palestinians returned to work in Israel yesterday as the military authorities reopened the "green line" separating it and the occupied territories.

Many arrived at work to find that they had been sacked or replaced by Israelis.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip were closed off last week following a spate of Jewish-Arab violence which left five people dead and several wounded.

New measures aimed at preventing Palestinians without proper permits or with criminal records from entering Israel have been introduced and could drastically reduce the number of Palestinians working in Israel. Of an estimated 120,000 workers, as many as 50,000 are believed to be illegally employed.

According to reports in the media, there will also be stricter measures aimed at preventing illegal overnight stays in Israel. Many Arabs prefer to run the risk of discovery by the authorities rather than make long daily journeys from homes in the

West Bank and Gaza Strip. Even without new regulations, Israeli employers are already showing less inclination to hire Arab labour. Businesses across the country are reported to be looking for replacements from among the recent wave of immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Ariel Sharon, the minister for housing, yesterday told Army Radio that the number of Palestinians working in Israel needed to be reduced in order to make way for unemployed Israelis and new immigrants.

The cabinet discussed possible new measures during its morning meeting. The findings of the government-appointed Zamir Commission, which on Friday presented its report on the Temple Mount killings of October 8, were also on the agenda.

CAIRO: Egyptian police in pursuit of the assassins of Rifaat Mahgoub, the speaker of parliament who was shot dead on October 12, killed two Muslim militants late on Saturday, hours after capturing six other men (Sarah Gauth

writes). An interior ministry statement said that the suspects are members of the outlawed Jihad (Holy War) organisation, an Islamic fundamentalist organisation that killed Anwar Sadat, the former Egyptian president in October 1981.

According to the Middle East news agency, Egyptian police have detained more than 1,000 suspects, most of them Iraqis or Palestinians, in their hunt for the killers.

Georgians turn out in force for poll

FROM NICK WORRALL IN TBILISI

THE small agricultural hall in Mtskheta, the ancient former capital to the north of Tbilisi, Georgia's present capital, hummed with activity as voters turned out in force yesterday to elect Georgia's first multi-party parliament since 1918. By mid-morning the returning officer Mirian Mchedlishvili was predicting a 90 per cent turn-out.

The fine autumn Sunday brought families on to the streets and the poll seemed peaceful enough, but an attempt on Friday night to shoot the leader of one of Georgia's many political parties must have set some nerves on edge. Ghia Tchanturia, whose National Democratic party is one of three parties boycotting the election, was shot in the arm but only slightly wounded as he was leaving a meeting. The gunman escaped in a car.

So far no motive has been established but some Tbilisi observers believe it might have been an act of provocation by supporters of the Communist party. Many democrats believe they are anxious to discredit Georgia's nationalist movement by convincing voters it has a potential for violence while the Communists stand for stability.

The election was originally scheduled for last March but it was postponed for "security reasons". Georgia is the last of the 15 Soviet republics to hold elections under the Gorbachev reforms. So many political parties have sprung up to oppose the Communists that it is hard to choose. Most of them appear to have the same basic platform — independence from Moscow and a free enterprise economy.

Many have merged into larger groups so that only 12 parties actually appear on the ballot papers. Half the 250 seats will be filled by direct election and the other half by proportional representation based on a second ballot paper asking for choice of party rather than candidate.

Novelty of foreign forays begins to fade

MOSCOW COMMENTARY

MARY DEJEVSKY

regional conflicts and the generally friendlier face that Moscow now presents to the world — may have run its course. Its logical sequel, "new political action" perhaps, is proving hard to define and even harder to execute.

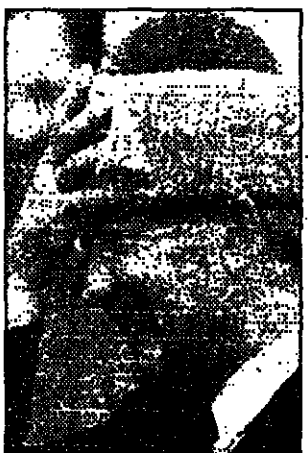
Mr Gorbachev seemed to recognise this in his address to the Spanish parliament at the weekend. He said: "The policy of new thinking is unshakeable as regards its principles and moral foundations, but it will be represented in future by something substantially different, which may even have a different name."

Part of the problem may be that the novelty of a presentable Soviet leader abroad is starting to wear off. Spain was a good choice for the opening of Mr Gorbachev's autumn diplomatic season. It was his first visit, and the flags were out in force. In Germany, he will be lauded for his acquiescence in unification. In future,

however, he may have to travel further for the ecstatic receptions that greeted his initial forays abroad.

Most of the Soviet leader's summits this autumn are repeat visits with the specific requirements of either enhanced security or economic support and preferably both. Assurances on security commonly take the peculiarly Soviet form of a joint declaration or treaty of "friendship and co-operation". Economic assistance may be termed "co-operation on equal terms" (as Mr Gorbachev prefers) or "support for perestroika", but should more honestly be called "aid".

Obtaining both has not been easy. Spain produced a "joint declaration" and promised to work on a friendship treaty. It offered \$1.5 billion (£765 million) of credit, limited to Spanish exports to the Soviet Union. France has reportedly finalised a co-operation treaty and may offer grain, with credit to back the sale. Germany has already agreed both a treaty and aid, as an unstated quid pro quo for unification. Like Spain and France, Argentina, which offered Moscow increased food sales last week,



Gorbachev in Madrid: given honorary doctorates

is raising the credit itself. Italy does not like friendship treaties and has almost as little money to spare as Spain. Britain likes friendship treaties even less than Italy, though the Soviet foreign ministry claims that one is in preparation. Margaret Thatcher is against aid as such, as indeed are many of the more outspoken Soviet reformers, unless it is tied to specific changes in economic practice. Moscow's campaign to attract long-term financial sup-

port from the community is also proceeding more slowly than it had hoped. Successive EC visitors and specialist delegations to the Soviet Union have counselled caution, once apprised of the depth of Soviet economic problems. This weekend, EC leaders agreed to consider the matter properly in December. Until then, emergency aid only will be considered.

Mr Gorbachev's difficulties abroad are not exclusively economic, however.

The Gulf conflict has highlighted another area of Soviet vulnerability. Not only is its insistence on not using military force placing strains on the new-found East-West consensus, but its de facto break with Iraq is still being challenged within the Soviet establishment. One speaker in parliament last week noted, with reference to the Gulf, that "new political thinking" had made Moscow "friends with everyone, but allies with no one". Moscow's failure to forge new alliances sets it apart from the United States, Japan or almost any West European country, and could leave President Gorbachev politically exposed.



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Let them all opt out

Ronald Butt

At the Blackpool conference, Neil Kinnock put education at the centre of Labour's policy offering. How right he was to do so has since been clearly shown by the public opinion polls. Yesterday's Mori poll in *The Sunday Times* found that 45 per cent of people think Labour's are the best policies on education, and only 22 per cent prefer those of the Tories.

Asked what they consider the most important issue facing the country, more people (35 per cent) name education than any other. A Harris poll in *The Observer* tells the same story. Most people are dismayed by the low standards of teaching and by the condition of many schools. The flight of those who can afford it to independent schools and the widespread recourse to private supplementary coaching support these findings.

That Labour should be the beneficiary of this discontent is ironic, for socialism has done more than anything else to promote the educational philosophy which since the 1950s has brought about the collapse of teaching standards. But in politics, voters are tempted to seek any port in a storm. So recognising the danger, Mrs Thatcher has picked up the glove Mr Kinnock threw down, and has hurled her own challenge: education vouchers.

There is no precise commitment. She merely referred at the Tory conference to the pilot scheme of training vouchers for school-leavers, and said she hoped it would not be the last voucher scheme the government introduces. But everyone knows that she had in mind the kind of scheme examined by successive education secretaries with her warm approval, yet abandoned every time as impractical. Such a scheme, under which all parents would receive vouchers for a given sum, to be "spent" at the state or independent school of their choice, would principally help parents of children already at independent schools, those newly enabled to afford private education, and those competent to use them to shop around for the best state schools. It would help some children and might have a slow impact on the whole system. But it would do nothing to help those children most in need: those in bad inner-city schools but whose parents are not competent to make good use of vouchers.

Vouchers are yesterday's theory. They did not work and would again be knocked to pieces by the educational establishment inside and outside Whitehall which is itself at the heart of the real problem. At the conference, Mrs Thatcher was simply trying to turn an awkward political corner by looking back affectionately to an old idea, instead of taking time to think again. She was doing what she did at the Conservative women's conference in June, when, off the cuff, she produced

her own mini-manifesto of things still to be done — which was news to many of her colleagues.

What she said then was subsequently described as thinking aloud. Now she seems to have done the same by resurrecting vouchers. The education secretary, John MacGregor, naturally confirmed that vouchers are again being considered for the next manifesto — how could he do otherwise? — but if the Tories are to calm public anxieties, they must do something more fundamental than brush up the feathers of this dead parrot.

The right way ahead is pointed by the new freedom of schools to opt out of local authority control and manage themselves with direct funding from the Exchequer. The significance of this is not parents' freedom to choose, but the implicit recognition that the power of local authorities is a damaging imposition that must be removed. But if some are to be freed, why not all? Why should pupils lucky enough to attend opted-out schools be the only ones to benefit?

Helping all children means creating a state-financed but wholly independent system, with schools and teachers responsible to parents and public opinion. There must be an end to the hegemony of the ideologues who dominate many local education authorities and are responsible for the teaching fashions promoted by many teacher training colleges and examination boards.

There must also be an end to opposition to objective tests on the spurious ground that they do nothing for those who fail. The acquisition of objective knowledge must cease to be damaged by concentration on so-called learning skills. The whole system should be inspected by a similarly responsive and independent inspectorate — and not by Her Majesty's present inspectors, who, while frequently acknowledging the poor output of schools, often criticise those with good results for their "traditional" teaching.

None of this would undermine local accountability, which means little under the present grotesquely large local authorities. It is a myth that all the educational damage has been done under Labour local authorities. Tory councils dominated by education officials determined to mould the schools to their social preconceptions have wrought as much harm. Books and equipment may be inadequate and some premises may be squalid, but teaching fashions are at the heart of the matter. They flourish because there is little power to call these "experts" to account.

Talking about vouchers is a reflex action and a substitute for deeper thought. That is now the prevailing fault of Mrs Thatcher's government, and she should urgently acknowledge the need for something better. Education is a good issue on which to start.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Yesterday we put the clocks back, and today there will be questions about it in Parliament. There always are. Every year, to the pleasure of bores everywhere and the dismay of the rest, the great debate is resumed, as it is on the facing page.

Should we change our clocks when the rest of Europe does? Should we change our clocks at all? Should we have summer time in winter and double summer time in summer? Should we part company with our Scottish cousins and put the clock back only on reaching Gretna Green? During the weekend there have been radio phone-ins to discuss these matters. Some one on the Isle of Wight complains that you couldn't get the children off to bed if it were still light at midnight, traffic experts offer evidence on road fatalities in Strathclyde and farmers complain that sheep can't be expected to brush their teeth in the dark in Orkney.

Like all great issues, the debate on time zones offers limitless scope for the positing of opinion and counter-opinion evidence from experts and folkly wisdom from ordinary folk, with no danger of reaching any determinate conclusions.

But the issue has a rival. The controversy over European monetary union is now shaping up somewhere between the golf club and the saloon bar, closing in on the public bar and poised to strike the taxis. Hard ecus are being discussed in Crewe, the optimum level for the pound against the mark is a live issue in Hartlepool, and in Stoke they can now pronounce though not yet spell Bundesbank.

Should we be looking forward to a day when a glass of retsina in Corfu is priced in the same coin as half of mild in Burton? Some say yes; others no. Free marketeers pose radical alternatives: Nigel Lawson's idea of competing currencies that would legitimise the use of any EC currency in any EC country, so that you could tender Greek drachma to buy a pair of winter knickers in Rochdale, and John Major's proposed hard ecu, the use of which would be voluntary; it would run alongside domestic currencies and

"evolve" into a central position as it proved its usefulness.

Time zones and monetary union... how, in our short lives, are we to debate both at the length each merits? Well, why not run them together?

Take monetary union. Surely the solution is to stop pretending that one currency is to the taste of everybody from Shetland to Crete all year round, and instead give each currency a run, in different seasons. Rather than put the clocks back yesterday, we could all have gone over to Dutch guilders for the autumn. After Christmas the EC could move in step into Italian lire, giving garage attendants something to do. Come spring, the Portuguese escudo would become legal tender in Britain while firms experimented with the Irish punt. Summer would bring the Spanish peseta right across Europe.

That would be a challenge to Tesco till girls, but not half the challenge that my proposals for Euro time will pose to the rest of us. EHU — European horological union — is a non-starter, and John Major's "hard chrono" is only marginally better. This would allow an EC time zone set in Brussels to compete alongside our national time zones, so that Whitehall might shift its flexitime arrangements in the hard chrono but the rest of us would be free to carry on as we are; but it is still an awkward halfway house.

Give us liberty! Give us free and unfettered chronological competition! Give us the Lawson plan: a triumph of deregulation thinking. Any UK citizen over the age of consent will be able to set his clocks to British summer time, continental winter time, Greenwich mean time or any time he chooses. Let the Highland farmer milk his cows when he likes, and call that 6am; but, down in Streatham, any time will be party time for Mrs Cynthia Payne. After initial confusion the market will settle down and the most popular time zone will prevail.

Since we put our clocks back, Spain is an hour ahead again. So, as you slope off an hour early from work this afternoon, you know the response when challenged: "Que?"

THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 29 1990

Humphrey Taylor believes the US Congress is too much in thrall to the electorate

When public opinion can paralyse

The last month has been a disaster not only for President Bush and the Republicans, but for the whole reputation of government in America. This weekend's agreement on a deficit reduction package will not on its own repair the damage, but Americans who are angry with their elected representatives in Washington have it all wrong. The problem is not that Washington is unresponsive to the public mood, but that it is too responsive.

Of course, the public, like Congress and the president, favours deficit reduction in principle, but none of the many polls on the subject has suggested majority support for any one of the packages proposed. The public's threshold of pain is too low. Several polls show majority support for particular proposals when considered in isolation. For example, in order to reduce the deficit, substantial majorities are willing to "pay more (unspecified) taxes if the tax burden will be fairly shared", to pay higher taxes on alcohol and luxuries, to accept increased taxes for the affluent and to cut defence spending. Yet the polls also show large majorities opposed to increased taxes on

petrol and to any cuts in the Medicare programme of health care for the elderly. A CBS News poll found only 48 per cent willing to pay \$100 a year more in taxes, and only 27 per cent said they would willingly agree to the government providing "fewer services, even in health and education".

The electorate understands that members of Congress are motivated by public opinion, but fails to see that its own squeamishness when faced with hard choices was behind the months of paralysis on Capitol Hill. Politicians were correct to fear a voter backlash against their support for a package taking the unpopular steps necessary to reduce the deficit.

The American political system is uniquely responsive to public opinion. In most other countries, leaders assume (and the public tacitly accepts) that on many issues the leaders know best. The public's role is to vote every few years for the team it prefers. While they might not be rash enough to say so, most British MPs would agree with Edmund Burke that "your representative owes you not his industry only but his judgment; and he betrays you, instead

of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion". In other words, leaders are right to do what they think best, regardless of public opinion — provided that they are re-elected at the next election.

No American politician can afford to be so cavalier. I was stunned when I arrived in the US in 1976 to hear Jimmy Carter say the country deserved a president "as good and as wise as the American people". In Britain I think the public hopes to find leaders better and wiser than the people — at least at governing, if not in their personal morality. Part of the explanation for the difference is historical and cultural. One can argue about how democratic different countries are, but there is no doubt that the US is a much more populist country with more respect for public opinion.

This is partly the consequence of the electoral system. No British MP has to face a primary election. And once elected for a safe seat, a British MP can usually expect to be re-nominated by his local party with little or no fuss at every subsequent election. By comparison the American congressman is constantly scared of potential opposition from within his own

party. And the elections every two years to the House of Representatives encourage members (as the founding fathers intended) constantly to be looking over their shoulders at public opinion.

There is one other critical difference between the US and all parliamentary systems. Fixed elections mean a Republican congressman can vote as often as he chooses against the bills introduced by a Republican president or Republican colleagues without fear of bringing down the government. In a parliamentary system, to vote against one's party on more than the rarest of occasions is likely to incur the wrath of one's leaders and greatly reduce one's chance of ministerial appointment and political advancement.

While most MPs obviously pay attention to their constituents, they are much less attentive than American congressmen. Not even the most popular American politician could get away with Duncan Sandys' reply when asked why he scarcely ever visited his Streatham constituency: that he was elected "to represent Streatham in Westminster, not Westminster in Streatham".

My impression is that con-

gressmen are excessively influenced by dozens of polls on the minutiae of politics — from airline regulation and trade policy to arms funding and confirmation of Supreme Court justices. For them to pay less attention to the polls and more to the merits of the issues would certainly be healthier.

Americans are more likely than Europeans to believe in the innate wisdom of the public, and that government should be led by public opinion. Parliamentary democracies find it much easier to approve desirable but unpopular policies than does the US under its Constitution, which the founding fathers designed to make difficult the passing of legislation without a broad public consensus.

Many other countries believe in government of and for the people, but no other country is as literally committed to government by the people. In other countries, legislators can often ignore public opinion on specific issues and survive. In America, it is a brave politician who dares tell the voters that he knows better than they what is good for them. Particularly a few days before an election.

The author is president of Louis Harris and Associates, New York.

Enter left, and left, and left, all bearing a boring theme

Once in a while, when we have all spent the previous day helping old ladies across the road and bandaging the paws of limping cats, there is a morning so glorious, so fresh, so full of rainbows, that even the sight of a letter from the Inland Revenue on the mat cannot spoil our happiness.

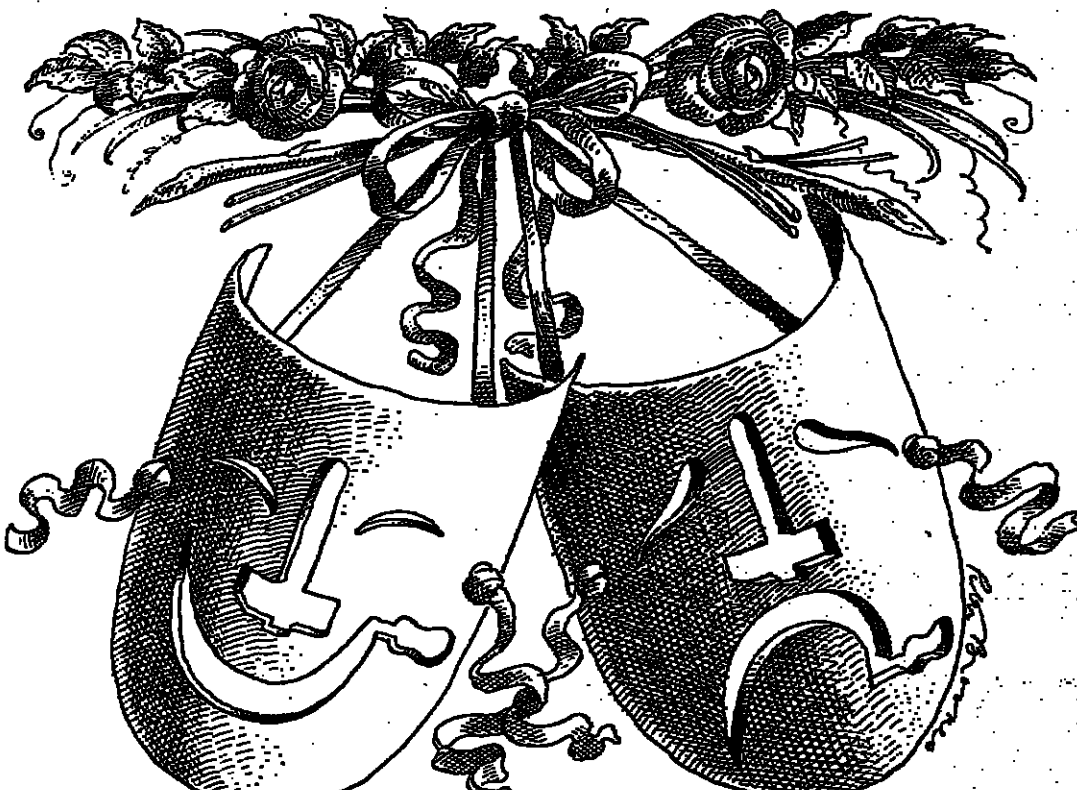
Such a day dawned a week or so ago, when I read that — well, let Mr Mark Lawson tell his tale.

This week, wage negotiations... broke down between the Theatre Writers' Union and the Independent Theatre Council, representing fringe and repertory companies. After five years of discussion, the council refused to ratify a £3,254 commission fee for new scripts. In a separate dispute, the union is unhappy with the £5,500 offer from the body representing the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Court. It is expected that the union will advise its members — who include Trevor Griffiths, David Edgar and Caryl Churchill — to strike, refusing new commissions.

Just contemplate those three names. Then add to them, say, Howard Brenton, Peter Flannery, David Hare, Howard Barker, Doug Lucie, David Storey and as many more of this dismal crew as you can think of, and then contemplate the possibility of a strike among them that would take the form of a refusal by them all to write any more plays.

Now will you believe that God's in his heaven and all's right with the world? I am assuming that all these people are in the Theatre Writers' Union, but even if some are not, it is inconceivable that any of them would cross a picket-line to deliver a blackleg script. (I had no idea, incidentally, that any such organisation as the Theatre Writers' Union existed, but the notion is a perfectly delightful one — I can see them spending happy hours moving the reference back, shouting "Point of order!" or "Card vote!", and composing resolutions under the watchful eyes of the steering committee, which would from time to time reject not only the resolutions but the very time measured TUC lingo, as "void for uncertainty of meaning".)

Which side of the dispute has the



Bernard Levin laments the lack of subtlety he finds in all contemporary plays that are politically inspired

more just claim I cannot tell; my own belief — that all the plays of all of them put together and wrapped in gold foil are worth about eightpence — is strictly subjective. My interest, therefore, lies only in the intransigence each side can conjure up, for the more bitter the struggle, the more immovable the contestants, the greater is the likelihood that the strike by these playwrights may become permanent, or at least go on so long that they all starve to death.

I speak with some feeling. On and off, I have spent a good many years as a theatre critic, and for many more years I have had the honour to be a member of the London Evening Standard Drama Awards jury. I have, therefore, been obliged to see the plays of those on my list; I calculate that if I add up all the hours spent doing so it would come to something like 17 years of my life.

Or perhaps it only seems like that. Mind, I am not listing bad

writers with bad plays; I have seen thousands of those, and they disappear from memory half an hour after curtain-fall. The truth is much more terrible: many of those playwrights I list have real talent; it is what they do with their talent that has silenced my ear, bent my back, rheumy my eye and assuredly hastened my end. For these are, on the whole, the political playwrights of our day, and the relentless monotone in which they think they are bravely excoriating the evils of capitalist society can give you toothache in a quarter of an hour, even at the back of the upper circle.

Monotone indeed. My complaint is not that these playwrights are all on the left — of course they are, if only because the people who commission them have never encountered any political opinions that were not on the left (some years ago the RSC hired the *Morning Star's* theatre critic as its dramaturge, and for all I know

he's still there). No, what makes me long for a couple of pints of strychnine in the interval is their inability to see that if the only point they want to make is that Mrs Thatcher dines nightly on grilled working-class baby, their plays will not carry verisimilitude. It is no use telling them to read Shaw, because they would dismiss him as one who sold out to the bosses — that is, one whose work was successful outside the subsidised theatre. And the reason they would thus dismiss him is also the reason their own plays go in one ear and out the other, troubled by nothing in between: he gives the devil a full measure of good tunes. This is something our "committed" playwrights cannot grasp: that if you hold the scales evenly throughout, you are more likely to persuade your audience of your view when you finally push one side of the scales down. Let me take a single representative work that will make my

point clear. *Serious Money*, by Caryl Churchill. It so happened that this was a particularly bad play (she has written good ones), made worse by some appalling acting, and made worse still by Miss Churchill's conviction that it is tremendously brave, tremendously funny and tremendously exciting to have the word "fuck" spoken on the stage. But that was not why it had no political effect, even though it had a good run.

The play was about the making of money in ways the author disapproved of, and particularly about the City and its arcane but profitable mysteries. Such an attack, skilfully deployed, could well be made in dramatic form and make a telling point; but it would have to be a real play, with characters no less real, and with a real debate at the heart of the work. Miss Churchill was content (as, presumably, was the simple-minded management of the Royal Court) to offer a couple of hours of stale attitudes and staler platitudes. But a most interesting phenomenon arose in the play's run: a large part of the audience was drawn from the very people she thought she was damning, who were loving every minute. Could there be better proof of my contention that the silly shouting that goes for political drama these days fails of its effect because the shouting is silly? (I heard that the theatre opened that the Royal Court sold so much champagne of an evening.)

The kindest thing to be said about the political theatre of our day is that it is based on a total lack of observation. There are many things wrong with this country, but if you go about saying that politics is entirely rotten, education is entirely rotten, marriage is entirely rotten, art is entirely rotten, human beings are entirely rotten, and for good measure that the balance of payments is entirely rotten, the majority of the population, not being committed playwrights, will notice that it isn't true. I look forward to the day when our dramatic nay-sayers find that their plays, however cheaply offered, will be rejected even by the entirely rotten RSC, the entirely rotten NT, and the entirely rotten Royal Court. Stand fast, both sides.

Isherwood unvarnished

A little-known American academic living in Britain is to edit the diaries of Christopher Isherwood, the English novelist best known for *Goodbye to Berlin* — who spent much of his life in America. Katherine Bucknell, a 33-year-old former research fellow at Oxford, was entrusted with the task by Isherwood's partner, Don Bachardy, whose help she had sought while writing a book on W.H. Auden that appears next month.

"I was never an Isherwood groupie," she says. "This is a tremendous honour and challenge. I will not leave out one word." She will work on the 12 diaries, covering the years 1939-83 and totalling more than a million words, at her home in Notting Hill between bringing up two children.

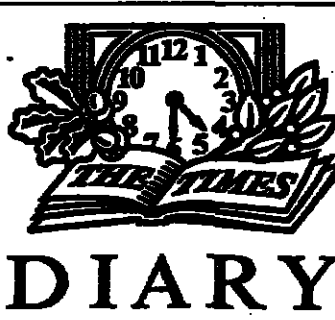
The journals give explicit details of Isherwood's countless homosexual encounters. Speaking yesterday from the home they shared in Santa Monica, Bachardy said: "Chris would have ripped them up if he did not want them in print. He always said never to write anything if you were not prepared to have it published. The journals will shock many people but I would not dare censor a word. I believe they are his finest work." The journals will be published in up to five volumes over a number of years, probably by Methuen. As if that were not enough, Bachardy, whose book of sketches of Isherwood on his death-bed was praised by the critics, is working on his own journal of their life together.

That pillar of the free market, Lord Harris of High Cross, was determined not to miss Nicholas Ridley's appearance at a dinner last week of the No Turning Back Group of Thatcherite MPs. The problem was that he wanted to take a guest from America, and meetings of the group are highly secretive affairs. Harris's secretary telephoned Michael Brown, who was organising the dinner, to ask if an exception might be made. "Strangers are not allowed," Brown told her, but then, out of curiosity, asked the name. "Milton Friedman," came the answer. An exception was immediately made.

Business rated

David Nellist, the Coventry Labour MP who is due to appear before magistrates today for non-payment of the community charge, may well achieve his ambition of going to prison rather than being forced to pay. One of the three options open to courts is to impose an attachment-of-earnings order on defaulters. But the Department of the Environment has confirmed that this cannot apply to MPs. "They are regarded as self-employed because they award themselves a salary," said a spokeswoman for the department. "And because they are self-employed, we cannot attach their earnings."

Another option for the magistrates is to send the bailiffs in, but Nellist says: "That hasn't happened in Coventry so far, and I'm not likely to be the first. They will have to send me to prison." Meanwhile there is confusion at the environment department on whether poll-tax backsliders (if any) among British Euro-MPs,



whose salary is set by the EC hierarchy, are also immune to the earnings-attachment rule. What doozyi Surasbough socialist will put it to the test?

Eye of the storm

The Met Office may have drastically scaled down its earlier predictions about today's expected storm, but the forecasters were taking no chances. Instead of a leisurely day at home with his family, Bob Riddaway, principal met officer at the London Weather Centre, spent yesterday at his desk leading efforts to track the storm. Senior colleagues also went in.

At the Met Office in Bracknell, Colin Flood, director of forecasting, was taking no chances on a repetition of the 1987 hurricane, when no warnings were given. The press office, normally closed for the weekend, was kept open 24 hours a day. "Even if it is not as severe as we first thought, we cannot be criticised for not giving an early enough warning," said a spokesman.

BBC weatherman Michael Fish, who in 1987 told television view-

ers that no hurricane was coming, only hours before it struck, said on television yesterday: "It's going to be breezy tomorrow." You have been warned.

Different schools

Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, has lost no time in pulling rank on the Thatcherite Michael Forsyth, who was recently appointed minister of state at the Scottish Office with education among his responsibilities — after being re-

Do you wish to speak to the organ grinder or the monkey?



moved from the Scottish party chairmanship. Forsyth is said to have urged Mrs Thatcher to reopen the debate on education vouchers in her Bournemouth conference speech, and is pressing for further educational reforms immediately. But Rifkind is determined there will be no further changes in Scotland before the next election.

The first signs of the power struggle emerged when letters sent to the Scottish Office about education were answered not by Forsyth's office but by Rifkind's. Even telephone calls on the sub-

ject are often put straight through on Rifkind's lines. Now Rifkind has declared that he will take a close interest in his junior minister's education portfolio.

Forsyth recently held talks with the biggest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland, but Rifkind, anxious for better relations with the teachers, has now written to the union motivating further discussions "not which I and Michael Forsyth would be present".

Leaders, not leader

Judging by his comments after the deeply divided Rome summit, it was not Mrs Thatcher who most annoyed the Italian prime minister, Giulio Andreotti, but the British press for its remarks beforehand.

Perhaps having in mind our own leader, headlined "Summit without a cause", Andreotti told a news conference he wanted to take issue with those British newspapers that considered the summit unnecessary. But what particularly riled him was the suggestion in this paper that the level of disorganisation that has marked the Italian EC presidency was rivalled only by that of the Greeks.

One Community insider said: "The Italians are being extraordinarily sensitive. They feel they are being mocked, and suspect Downing Street of putting the newspapers up to it." While this may be the Roman custom, we can assure the Italians it is not the British way. The Italians are now putting pressure on the British embassy in Brussels to have nice things said about their presidency. Clearly it has not worked so far.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

A CASSANDRA IN ROME?

What has Margaret Thatcher been doing in Rome this past weekend? Is she now just an embarrassment to Britain at a time of crucial change in Europe's political evolution? Or is she Cassandra, endowed with the gift of true prophecy, but doomed to remain unheeded?

In one respect, Mrs Thatcher was absolutely right. This summit was a disgrace. Challenged to resolve the chaos of farm prices in advance of the Gatt round, members decided instead to bring forward a debate on economic union scheduled for December. In doing so, they almost casually accepted a 1994 date for a new central bank, to be followed by a single currency and the surrender of national control of economic policy. While few members expect actually to go along with such a union come the day, anything was clearly better than talking about farm prices. Such procedural anarchy is a measure of the shambles of the current Italian presidency of the EC — and of the EC's way of doing, or not doing, urgent business. This is not the executive decisiveness of Europe plc, more the last days of the Austro-Hungarian empire, seizing ever more power to the centre but careless of what to do with it.

Only Mrs Thatcher voices the concerns privately shared by many other leaders. They too have their sovereignty agendas. There are signs of a renewed Gaullism in France, as farmer militancy, the chauvinism of Jean-Marie Le Pen and the domestic ambitions of Jacques Delors all make themselves felt. Germany is sceptical of the inflationary implications of ceding economic policy, and huge regional handouts, to a coalition of non-German spendthrifts. Others too are worried at the arrogance of the Brussels bureaucracy and at M Delors' plans to redirect its accountability from national governments and into the vacuum of the so-called European parliament. Hence the revived interest, not least in France, in subsidiarity, the enshrining of specific "states' rights" in a revised Treaty of Rome.

Nor is Mrs Thatcher alone in her anger at the antics of the French and German farm ministers over the past two weeks, who have rejected both the pleadings of farm reformers and a compromise package from the European commission. These antics have made a further mockery of EC agricultural policy and of the claim that supranationalism is reducing the power of national lobbies. Nothing might have done more for federalism in Rome than for M Delors and his colleagues to have picked up Mrs Thatcher's farm price rant and thrashed out a deal that very night. They fumbled it. They opted for a vague, easy-going future rather than the nasty, difficult present.

Mrs Thatcher's critics may remark on the ineffectiveness of her diplomats (most of them, fiercely disloyal to her), on the smooth collusion of the Franco-German alliance, on London's obsession with only agreeing what can be delivered. They may wish the British

leader could couch her arguments with greater subtlety, be less principled, more pragmatic. France, they murmur, has no intention of giving up the franc or national farm subsidies. Why can Mrs Thatcher not accept "economic union" as so much diplomatic esperanto, waffle which can be agreed today and disregarded tomorrow?

Mrs Thatcher is not that sort of animal. Nor is the British tradition of public administration. On the whole, Whitehall agreements are bartered before being reached, but once reached are implemented. Britain has long supported the competition policy of the European commission and the revived work of the competition directorate in fields other than agriculture. Hence its support for a "wider" community, with open trade with Eastern Europe. Mrs Thatcher has never had any problem with the EC as a free trade area. What she cannot abide is its frequent behaviour as an anti-free trade area.

More problematic is that Mrs Thatcher has now become the embodiment of this point of view. She is not a dumb obstacle to European federalism, but an implacable, battling, relentless arguer against it. Other European leaders know that, as long as she is there, they can take the line of least resistance towards the neo-imperialists of Brussels. She is a necessary monster: if she did not exist, they would have to invent her. She stands for national identity, for the democratic self-determination of individual states, for ceding upwards only what commercial bigness dictates must be ceded upwards. She is resisting that from which the peoples of Eastern Europe are laboriously freeing themselves, the historical self-aggrandisement of supranational regimes everywhere.

If Mrs Thatcher is to be criticised, it is that she has too willingly accepted this typecasting, while conceding defeats on the budget, on farm prices, on the Single European Act which make her seem merely cantankerous. She is a member of the EC and has a perfectly creative view of its future, as a free-trade cooperative but one with important regulatory functions requiring strong central control. If reform to the treaty structure of Europe is now in the air, then Britain has an interest in its outcome. Without subsidiarity — a subsidiarity that must cede far less to central government (especially fiscally) than that of the United States — then economic or political union will mean nothing. The powers and the budgets of Community institutions will simply inflate until they explode in a burst of renaissance nationalism.

Short of withdrawal from the Treaty of Rome, which remains the democratic right of any state, subsidiarity is the one sure defence of national sovereignty in a commercially complex continent. It is the next great European debate. Mrs Thatcher is ideally suited to take the lead in this debate.

HONEST BROKER IN BAGHDAD

The evolution of Soviet policy in the Middle East since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has offered connoisseurs of diplomacy a curious sideshow. Until yesterday's talks between President Gorbachev's envoy Yevgeny Primakov and the Iraqi dictator, the Russians have avoided the limelight in the Gulf. Moscow has preferred to leave the United States to expend its moral capital, reserving its own stock of prestige to be committed only when the Americans might hesitate before going to war: an opportunity for Kremlin shuttle diplomacy to pull off a coup. This moment has apparently arrived.

The fanfares which accompanied the present mission to Baghdad — contrasting with Mr Primakov's low-key visit there earlier this month — are part of a larger Soviet plan to recover a share of the action in the Gulf. Since this effort coincides with a lull in the diplomatic skirmishing between Iraq and the West (though not in the military build-up), neither Washington nor London could object to a Soviet emissary joining in their own attempt to face down Saddam Hussein without bloodshed.

Just because the United Nations Security Council was prepared to defer — at Soviet request — the passage of a resolution condemning Iraqi war crimes in Kuwait does not mean that Mr Primakov is in any sense empowered to deal with the Iraqis as the plenipotentiary of the civilised world. A new initiative might only serve to strengthen Saddam's determination to leave the talking to his opponents, some of whom are working themselves into a muddle over the hostage issue and are yearning for an honest broker, perhaps one from Moscow, to take a hand.

France is a case in point. The arrival of Mr

Gorbachev there yesterday coincided with President Mitterrand's statement that the impending release of French hostages from Iraqi captivity had not resulted from secret negotiations. That a French head of state should feel obliged to deny charges of duplicity suggests hypersensitivity. Attacked by anti-American critics to left and right, Mitterrand feels exposed. By offering to act as a go-between, his Soviet guests can relieve him of responsibility for dealing with Iraq, while staving off a war that he dreads.

Soviet influence over the Arab alliance against Iraq should be greater than over the French. The importance for Arab morale of retaining Soviet support for the blockade remains great; and this gives Mr Gorbachev some leverage in relation to President Bush, who needs Arab support. But if the Kremlin is serious about evicting Iraq from Kuwait, it should beware of raising false expectations. The postponement of the tough new UN resolution on Iraq, just to smooth Mr Primakov's path in Baghdad, ought not to become a precedent.

Soviet interests dictate that a Gulf war and the economic dislocation which would follow it must be avoided at all costs. Western interests dictate that war may, under certain circumstances, be a lesser evil than appeasement. Since the Soviet Union remains the only superpower to which Saddam Hussein might conceivably listen, this Soviet diplomatic offensive may serve Western interests. But that is not the reason why it has been launched. As long as these home truths are not forgotten in the White House, Downing Street and the Elysée, the West should wish Mr Primakov well. He has a hard row to hoe.

THE FORCES FOR DARKNESS

"The time is out of joint," cried Hamlet. Indeed it is. How many people's spirits were dampened yesterday as the sun set before 5pm, an hour earlier than on Saturday? According to a Gallup poll last year, 76 per cent want the clocks to be an hour further forward than they are now, winter and summer. The government knows this, and until earlier this year planned to do something about it. Last week, it told parliament that it had dropped the idea, a decision that had everything to do with votes in Scotland and nothing to do with common sense or the views of the rest of the country.

The arguments for single/double summer time — setting the clocks an hour later than Greenwich Mean Time in winter and two hours later in summer — are overwhelming. A Department of Transport study suggests that over 2,000 deaths and injuries could be avoided on the roads if the evenings were lighter for longer. Road accidents are twice as common in the evening rush hour as in the morning. A green paper published last year concluded that the change could save money as well as lives: £90 million from safer roads, and £35 million on reduced need for lighting. More money could be earned from tourism.

A change would be also help communication with the rest of Europe. For at least four hours

of the working day, either the British or the other Europeans are not at their desks, having left work, not yet arrived, or gone off for lunch. But most important is the human factor. As night closes in, many people are scared to leave their houses. This is quite unnecessary. Of the 4,380 hours of daylight each year, hundreds are lost because people wake up after sunrise for about nine months of the year. Yet for almost all the year, they are awake through several hours of darkness in the evening. A move to single/double summer time would give them an extra hour of daylight every evening while losing an hour only on winter mornings.

Opponents of reform are mainly farmers, building workers, postmen and milkmen in the north and west of Scotland, who, understandably, do not like starting work in the dark. Yet they are dooming everybody else to ending work in the dark. Moreover, they are not even supported by most Scots, 58 per cent of whom wanted change in the same Gallup poll.

The United Kingdom should reform its time, and give the Scots two choices: either start and finish work or school an hour later in the winter, as in Scandinavia, or run its clocks an hour earlier than those of England and Wales. For the rest of the kingdom, the forces for darkness must not prevail.

Other side of the coin on pay rises

From the General Secretary of the MSF Union

Sir, I read with interest the Chancellor's warning (report, October 24) that wage increases will have to be sacrificed if companies are to remain competitive now that Britain has joined the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism).

Ever since I have been a trade unionist (nearly 50 years now), governments have been trying to hold down wages. Economic success depends on lower wages, they say, but of course the opposite is the case. The most successful economies and the most successful companies pay high wages.

All over Europe wages are ahead of prices. In Germany, wages are rising at 6 per cent, prices 3 per cent; in Spain, wages are rising by 9 per cent, prices 7 per cent; in France, wages are rising by 7 per cent, prices 5 per cent. In Britain, wages are up 9 per cent, prices 11 per cent. Employees everywhere seek to maintain standards, but it is governments and employers who are responsible for inflation — for setting prices.

My union represents highly skilled professional employees, nearly half of whom work in manufacturing industry. The current recession means that many of their jobs are at risk. The reason for this is not rising pay deals, but the failure of this government to create an economic climate for industry to prosper.

High interest rates and the failure to adequately invest in R&D, training and product development are the reasons for industry's lacklustre performance, and wage and salary levels which remain lower than our main European competitors.

In fact, the end result of low wages is easy management, cheap labour substituted for expensive machines, low investment in training, because you do not need high skill levels in labour-intensive processes.

In order to compete effectively Britain needs a high-productivity,

high-wage economy. Holding down wages is the most inappropriate response possible.

Yours sincerely,
KEN GILL, General Secretary,
Manufacturing Science Finance Union,
79 Camden Road, NW1,
October 26.

From the Director of the Employment Institute

Sir, It is most encouraging to read your report (October 26) that the TUC is seeking some form of accord with the government over pay in the wake of sterling's entry to the exchange-rate mechanism. It is imperative that the Secretary of State for Employment responds to this offer in a positive fashion at the forthcoming meeting of the NEDC.

In particular, he should encourage the CBI to participate in the kind of reasoned consensual discussion about economic policy that the unions suggest. If, however, he simply delivers a further homily on the need for moderation, and repeats misguided arguments in favour of decentralised bargaining, it will be apparent that the government is prepared to stand idly by while output and jobs are lost.

The ERA should steer us in the direction of low inflation. What it does not do is protect us from the pain of higher unemployment that will inevitably occur unless direct efforts are made to cut through the wage-price spiral.

The TUC, to its credit, has presented the government with a golden opportunity to avoid at least some of this pain. It should be grasped. If it is not, I hope that ministers will refrain from blaming workers when unemployment rises above two million once again and instead accept some responsibility themselves.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. PHILPOT, Director,
Employment Institute,
Southbank House,
Black Prince Road, SE1,
October 26.

Catholic-Jewish aims

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, On October 28, 1965, Roman Catholic hierarchies from throughout the world adopted at Vatican Council II *Nostra aetate*, or "In our time", the historic declaration that launched the most dramatic changes in 1,900 years of Catholic-Jewish relations.

This event was marked today at a multi-faith celebration at Westminster Cathedral Hall when I, amongst other participants, had the privilege to address the congregation.

Contrary to some critics the achievements have been significant and encouraging to anyone open to the impressive evidence of positive changes. Catholic textbooks have been revised so that anti-Jewish references have been virtually eliminated in school texts.

Catholics and Jews cooperate increasingly in a wide range of social justice efforts. Cardinals, bishops, priests, nuns and lay

people have taken part in Holocaust observances and have marched in demonstrations to liberate Soviet Jews — and Christians.

The record justifies the oft-repeated judgment that greater progress has been made in overcoming misunderstanding and in building mutual respect and friendship during these 25 years than throughout the past 1,900 years.

I cannot but hope that the fundamental changes that have taken place in relations between the Catholic Church and Judaism will be followed by the early establishment of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Israel. Surely this must be in everyone's interest and would cement the foundations of trust laid over these last 25 years.

Yours faithfully,
S. STERNBERG,
The Sternberg Centre for Judaism,
The Manor House,
80 East End Road, N3,
October 28.

Satanic fears

From Mr N. R. MacNicol

Sir, Schools all over the country are preparing to "celebrate" Halloween on October 31. If previous years are any guide, there will be little if any reference to All Saints Day the following day when the forces of good overcome the forces of evil.

The notion that witches and witchcraft are "fun" is inculcated in our children year by year by teachers, who do not themselves believe any such thing, but treat it (on a par with Santa Claus) as an occasion for encouraging imaginative drama, "creative writing" and craft work with black crepe paper.

It is arguable that the cumulative effect on our children is rather different, particularly when reinforced by the equally imaginative shop window displays at

this time, films and videos, and by the extra-curricular activity of "trick or treat", otherwise known as demanding money with menaces.

Evidence can be seen of the growth of clubs and societies of adults who style themselves witches and warlocks and meet in so-called covens to perpetuate the childish games of Halloween (but with adult overtones of a sexual nature).

There is evidence too (mainly anecdotal) that children are being involved in these adult games and suffering what is known as satanic abuse. Is it not time that schools started rather to emphasise the evil nature of all witchcraft and to focus attention on the wholesome delights of All Saints Day?

Yours faithfully,
N. R. MACNICOL,
9 Church Lane,
Greetham, Rutland.

The 'Fifth Man'

From Mr Chapman Pincher

Sir, The claim by Oleg Gordievsky and Christopher Andrew (report, October 15) to have "revealed" John Cairncross as the "Fifth Man" must astonish anyone who is knowledgeable in this field. Full details of Cairncross's damaging espionage activities and his recruitment to the Cambridge Ring were given to me by Peter Wright and others ten years ago and published in my two books *The Third Man* and *The Secret Too Long*. Chunks of the claimed "revelations" read as though taken from them. Anyone can check.

I do not raise this to establish precedence but the question of

Gordievsky's credibility as a source of KGB history. If he had the access to records which he claims one would have expected something new. Doubts are also raised by the authors' suggestion that Sir Roger Hollis could ever be seriously considered as the Fifth Man, a term which could only refer to the Cambridge Ring in the 1930s and if he was a spy he belonged to a different generation. Cairncross has no relevance to the Hollis case.

Yours faithfully,
CHAPMAN PINCHER,
Church House,
16 Church Street,
Kimbury,
Newbury, Berkshire.

Places under stress

From Mr David Phillips

Sir, The word "street" (letters, October 11 and 20), has a continuous tradition in the Roman occupation. It has been the victim of its own success.

At first it must have had a certain cachet — a *via strata*, compared with an ordinary footpath, and this gave it the edge over the equally old words "lane" and "way". Then it became the most common word for a thoroughfare, and lost its stress for that reason.

The stress on the other words for thoroughfare must originally have been to differentiate them from "street" for simple reasons of communication, but no doubt it was confirmed by other motives. It is, after all, one thing to live in

Acacia Avenue, and quite another, in Coronation Street.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PHILLIPS,
1 Post Office Cottages,
Shottenden, Canterbury, Kent.

From Mr Henry Hargreaves

Sir, The phenomenon to which Judge Mason calls attention (October 11) was noted by the *Oxford English Dictionary*: s.v. *street* 2 b. The only parallel clemens where the same incidence of stress is regularly found is *gate* sb (to be distinguished from *gate* sb) ("the opening in a wall").

described in the OED as "frequent in the street-names of Northern and Midland towns, as *Gallowgate, Kirkgate, Micklegate* etc."

New York's *Broadway* shows the same lack of stress on the second element, though the nu-

Council defends poll tax benefit

From Councillor Bill Griffiths

Sir, David Blunkett ("Double poll tax on second homes yields millions for councils", October 26) cannot have it both ways. To claim that it is a scandal that Westminster collects almost £7 million from the standard community charge, at the same time as acknowledging the £5 million collected by Sheffield City Council in the same way as vital income, smacks of hypocrisy. In fact, Westminster collects less than £5 million from second homes.

Perhaps David Blunkett would prefer all local authorities to be as inefficient as the likes of many Labour councils in London when it comes to collecting the community charge.

Sheffield, like Westminster, has the discretionary power to charge a multiplier of between zero and two on second homes. To maximise income and to reduce the community charge falling on Westminster's residents, the city council, like all other prudent authorities, charges twice the personal charge. Westminster's community charge of £195 is the

second lowest in the country. Double that amount cannot be considered to be excessive.

Westminster is not a rich borough. According to the Government's own ranking, Westminster is the 24th most deprived authority in England. For example, the resident unemployment rate is higher than the London average.

It must also be remembered that Westminster provides services for millions of commuters and tourists who flood the City each year. These costs are not fully recovered from the Government by way of grant and thus they fall on the community-charge payer.

In such circumstances, it is only right that those with second homes who, it must be remembered, actually use council services, should help shoulder these costs.

Yours faithfully,
BILL GRIFFITHS
(Chairman, Finance Committee),
Westminster City Council,
PO Box 240,
Westminster City Hall,
64 Victoria Street, SW1,
October 26.

Dog registration

From Lady Anson and others

Sir, MPs will vote on Monday night on the Lords' amendments to the Environmental Protection Bill. These include the introduction of a compulsory dog registration scheme. We would ask them to follow the example of the House of Lords and vote in favour.

Dog registration is backed by all of the major organisations with the direct responsibility for implementing and enforcing the current dog welfare and control laws. Our experience tells us that we require a system which holds each dog-owner accountable for their actions towards their dog and their dog's actions towards people and other animals.

This system needs the specific resourcing which a registration fee would help to provide, so enabling the employment of dog wardens to enforce the law, including registration itself, and to educate people as to their responsibilities as owners. Such a scheme would be a serious deterrent to the irresponsible owner.

This is not a fanciful notion. Registration and licensing systems work very effectively in other

parts of Europe where they are properly enforced. Consequently these countries have nothing like our problems of abused, abandoned and stray dogs.

We have no quarrel with specific counter-proposals announced by the government. However, to be effective these must be based on a compulsory registration scheme. Without such a scheme they will be costly, ineffective and possibly counter-productive.

We urge MPs to support Lord Stanley's amendment which provides for a two-year consultation period on the introduction of the scheme and local flexibility in its implementation.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH ANSON
(Vice-Chairman, Association of District Councils),
DAVID EVANS
(Director-General,
National Farmers Union),
ANDREW RICHMOND
(Chief Executive, RSPCA),
GRAHAM JUKES
(Under-Secretary, Institution of Environmental Health Officers),
Association of District Councils,
26 Chapter Street, SW1,
October 26.

Arms in the Gulf

From Mr Frank Allauin

Sir, Your editorial (October 24) draws attention to the most recent statement by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia that Saddam Hussein would court no disgrace by realising his blunder and retreating to his boundaries. You rightly point out that, if Saudi Arabia were to broker an "Arab solution" acceptable in Egypt and Kuwait "the West must acquiesce."

I write as one who strongly supports firm sanctions against Iraq, believing in their growing effectiveness especially on its vital oil exports, and equally strongly opposing invasion. As the Algerian foreign minister said this week, war would be a disaster for the Arab world (and, he might have added, for the West too).

On this occasion, however, I do agree with Mrs Thatcher's view, expressed on October 23, that Saddam must be deprived of his developing nuclear weapons capacity if the present situation is to be prevented in future.

The answer to that fear was given on October 19 by the US Secretary of State, James Baker. In

a speech given little coverage by the British media he outlined a blueprint for joint American, Soviet and multilateral sanctions to deal with regional conflict and to stop the spread of these weapons.

As he said: the proliferation of the nuclear bomb "is perhaps the greatest challenge of the 1990s." It would be unconscionable if Iraq, he said, "should be in a position where it could acquire nuclear weapons in the future." His embargo on proliferation preparations would also apply to chemical, biological and missile warfare.

It is encouraging to learn that Mr Baker's paper was written after prolonged consideration by defence and diplomatic experts in the Bush administration.

His plan to prevent the feared eventually demands immediate consideration — preferably by the UN. The ending of the cold war now gives the world a real opportunity to operate this proposal.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAUIN,
11 Eastleigh Road,
Manchester 25,
October 25.

Education problems

From Mrs Gail Goedkoop

Sir, In addressing the related issues of falling educational standards in literacy (report, October 17) and national testing in schools (report, October 19), I would suggest that teachers who reject the proposals for testing at seven because they do not wish children to be seen to fail, are responding to emotion rather than reason. They deny the basic fact of individual differences as well as the potential of skilled teaching to change children's ability to think.

Those who are failing or being failed by the system must be identified, so that disabled children can receive the appropriate teaching to guarantee their potential before they fall irretrievably behind their peers. The important implications of testing are that it will identify teachers who are failing and that much more in-service training is necessary. If children cannot learn the way we teach them, then we must learn to teach them the way they can learn.

Yours faithfully,
GAIL GOEDKOOP (Director),
Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre,
Frensham, Farnham, Surrey.

Part-time workers

From Mr Alan R. Tyrrell, QC

Sir, Scrivenor asserts ("The Law", October 16) that the 5.1 million part-time workers in the UK (out of 14 million in the EC) and the 1.3 million temporary workers in the UK (out of 10 million in the EC) will be "pleased" at the prospect of EC legislation forcing them within the "social" provisions applied to full-time workers.

Has he not considered why the UK has comparatively so many? It is because several other member states already have such legislation. The result is a shortage of part-time and temporary work for the mothers, handicapped, early retired, students, and so on who depend on these jobs. The small businesses who employ most of them will not take this economic risk or face the red-tape hassle.

The UK has proved that these de-regulated jobs fulfil an important social and economic need. Let the other member states follow our example.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN R. TYRRELL,
Francis Taylor Building,
Temple, EC4.

From Dr Angela Paterson

Sir, Street is simply the basic word to denote a paved way lined with houses and is relatively colourless, whereas other designations — Avenue, Terrace, Close, Lane — all characterise in some way and therefore take their share of the stress as being genuinely descriptive. Even Road — at first sight an exception — seems originally to have included the idea of riding.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA PATERSON,
215 Boroughbridge Road, York.

From Mr Raymond Harris

Sir, Do I live in Alwin, Alwine, Orwin, or Orwine Square? Yours etc.
RAYMOND HARRIS,
5 Alwyne Square,
Canbury, NI.

BUCKING
October 2
The Prince
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Captain R.H.
and Miss E.A.
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Saturday at
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Devonshire

Instituti Mechan Engineer

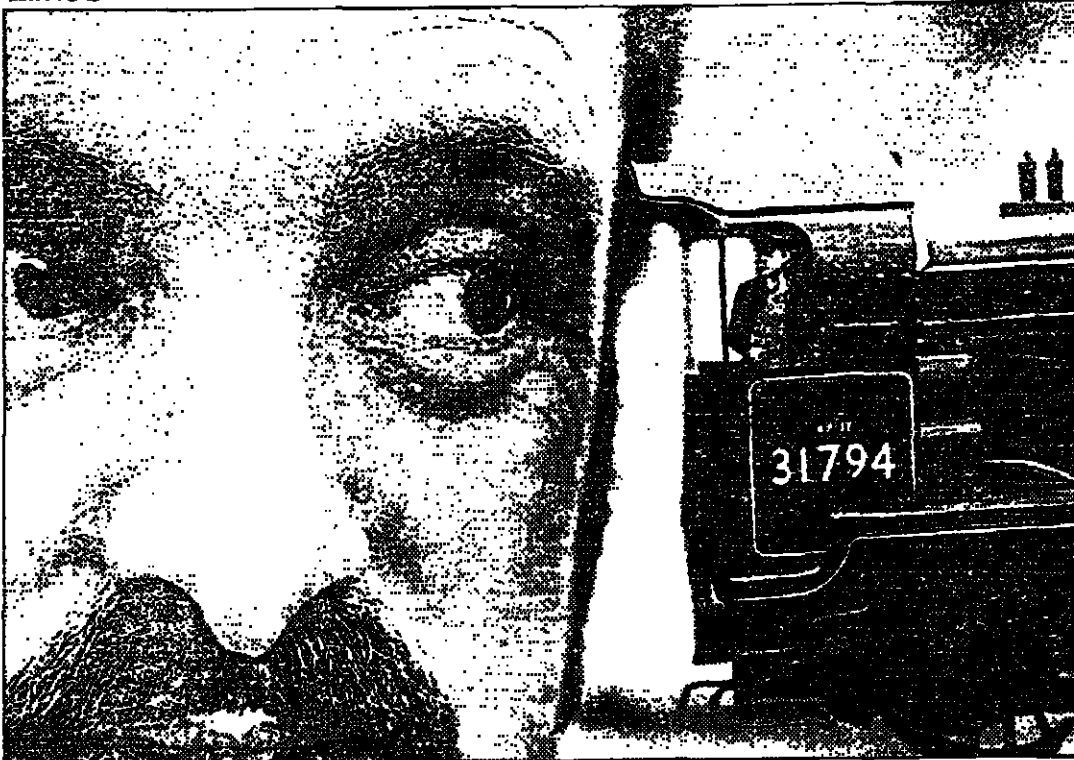
The Instituti
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Mr A. H. Ard,
B.Sc., M.Sc.,
Tottenham, Kent
will be a member
of the Institution
of Mechanical
Engineers, East
Coventry, North
amptonshire, from
1st January 1991.
Mr A. H. Ard is
a graduate of the
Institution of
Mechanical Engi-
neers, and has
been a member
of the Institution
of Mechanical
Engineers, North
amptonshire, since
1978.

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MATT FORD



Eye for detail: Martyn Welch does not aim for a romantic view of yesterday's railways, but their reality

A train not arriving at platform two

ANOTHER country branch line is doomed to closure, and there is precious little sign that anyone cares enough to launch a "Save our Station" campaign. Summer weeds are thrusting through the fractured tarmac of the platform at Hursley station, in Hampshire, where only a handful of passengers wait for the Bournemouth train. The old timetables have been scraped off the boards, and nobody has had the heart to paste up new ones over the tatters. When the engine hauls its two ill-assorted coaches into view under the bridge, it creeps in listlessly, as if aware that it is crossing these points almost for the last time.

But this is not a line facing closure, but one that never was. It is a work of fiction, a melancholy and elegant one, evoking a period and an atmosphere through an accumulation of minute particulars.

Hursley is a real village, in the heart of the Southern Region. But it never had a station. Martyn Welch has provided it with one. He went to primary school there 30 years ago, but for his train-spotting he had to go to Chandler's Ford, five miles away. "Three generations of my family worked on the railways, as drivers or coachbuilders," he says. "The last thing my dad wanted to do was to make model trains when he came home. But I have always been hooked on railways. I began to plan this model in 1981, and started to build it in my garage in 1986. The car stands outdoors - cars are built to withstand the rain."

His 18th model of the station that Hursley would have had in the late Fifties is a distillation of many actual stations that closed long ago, or were changed so greatly that their characters have been lost.

If I meant to be rude, I would call it a toy. Railway modellers working at Mr Welch's level of skill are a rueful group, who suspect, with some justice, that other people do not take what they are trying to do seriously. This week, leading figures in the craft will gather at Central Hall, Westminster, to exhibit their work, scan that of their rivals for subtle errors of history and technique, and tick their wounds.

"We all have a bit of a chip on the shoulder," says Mr Welch, who runs a model shop in Plymouth, Devon. "We are haunted by that phrase: 'Grown men still playing with trains'. Other people may re-enact Napoleonic battles in fancy dress, or travel abroad to go on the rampage at football matches. These are regarded as grown-up pursuits,

What drives a man
to spend years
recreating a Fifties
railway station that
never existed?

while we are regarded as doing something childish. Even among my customers, I suppose only about 3 per cent have an interest in the atmospheric precision I aim for."

If Hursley station was real, most people would not give it a second glance. Some spectators respond to the model in the same way, and are baffled to find that experts such as Robert Barlow, the editor of the *Model Railway Journal*, regard Hursley as one of the finest models of any kind ever built. It is this disparity that makes the model, and others made in the same spirit, such intriguing aesthetic paradoxes. They explore a territory where the line between pedantry and faithfulness of vi-

'I'm making a model
of a railway, not of a
train. If you put in the
tarnish and soot, the
thing is brought to life'

sion becomes unclear. The point of Hursley is its ordinariness, backed by factual knowledge and an imaginative concentration which has based every detail of the landscape on a local history that is at once hypothetical and representative.

The equipment of the station is coherent as a whole, and a clue to an imaginary world behind the scenes. The bridge is not just scenery, but the result of past transactions with the local farmer which can be inferred by the understanding eye. The neglected state of the shunting engine and its wagons was evoked by weeks of meticulous "weathering". To judge by the trees and the slightly parched grass, it is late in a rather dry August. Chalk downland, of course.

More familiar evocations of the steam age are evoked, perhaps unconsciously: willow-herb is rampant across the neglected buffers, recalling Edward Thomas's poem *Adlestrop*. Sir John Betjeman's "dear old, bloody old England of telegraph poles and

tin" is plainly recognisable in the sidings. Among the tweedy rural figures waiting for the train, "Station Syren" in summer hat and poppy-red dress, also straight from Betjeman, arouses one's curiosity: what is a woman like that doing in such a backwater?

For the modeller, Hursley is full of cunning tricks, to be analysed with a view to imitation and improvement. The old-fashioned one-armed signal nods as the train approaches. Uncannily, it drops with that inimitable ponderous bounce that is characteristic of a heavy 6ft signal-arm, not of a tin replica. This almost subliminal effect is contrived through an elaborate arrangement of counterweights underneath the table.

Refinements like this do not appeal to most children. Hursley expresses an adult nostalgia. According to Mr Barlow, modelers have a strong tendency to prefer the period of their own childhood: older modellers seldom see much magic in diesel engines, while younger ones have only faint memories of steam, and go to great pains to fit their model diesels with special equipment to reproduce the pulse of their cooling-fans.

The shunting engine at Hursley looks as if you would get soot all over your fingers if you touched it. This is controversial. There are two main contending schools of modelling: the platonists and the realists (the fantasists make a third). Platonists strive to reproduce the original they are modelling in its ideal form, as it was in the mind's eye of its designer. Realists value the patina of use.

"Until recently, the idea of weathering a model was almost taboo in this country," Mr Welch says. "But, from the time an engine leaves the construction shed, it begins to show the signs of use. I'm making a model of a railway, not of a train. If you put in the tarnish and soot, the thing is brought to life."

The reputation of Mr Welch's model has reached Hursley, and has caused some confusion there. At a recent exhibition, a visitor pored over the model signal box, fitted with every detail down to the kettle on the hob, and embellished with the village's name "Welch". "My grandfather used to work in that very signal-box!"

GEORGE HILL

● The Model Railway Journal Exhibition will be held on November 1, 2 and 3 at Central Hall, Westminster, 10.30am-6pm, 10.30am-8pm Fri. £5, children and senior citizens £4.

Rugby's black prince in a league of his own

Ellery Hanley, the
captain of Great
Britain, overcame a
lot on his way to the
top. Keith Macklin
traces his career

Less than 12 months ago the classic rags to riches story of Ellery Hanley, the poor boy from Leeds who rose to become captain of his club and country and a Member of the British Empire, seemed to be entering a cruel third phase.

Hanley's brilliant rugby league career seemed over, due to a serious and agonisingly painful pelvic injury, and the vultures were gathering to pick the bones out of his meteoric rise and fall.

The Black Prince, as one of his admirers dubbed him, was undergoing intensive specialised treatment at a London sports clinic, and there was no certainty that the cure would be effective.

When he decided to return to rugby league after Christmas, Hanley took the risk of permanent, crippling injury. The Wigan club, with whom he had risen to become acknowledged as the world's best player, put him back in their team knowing full well that it was make or break for both club and player.

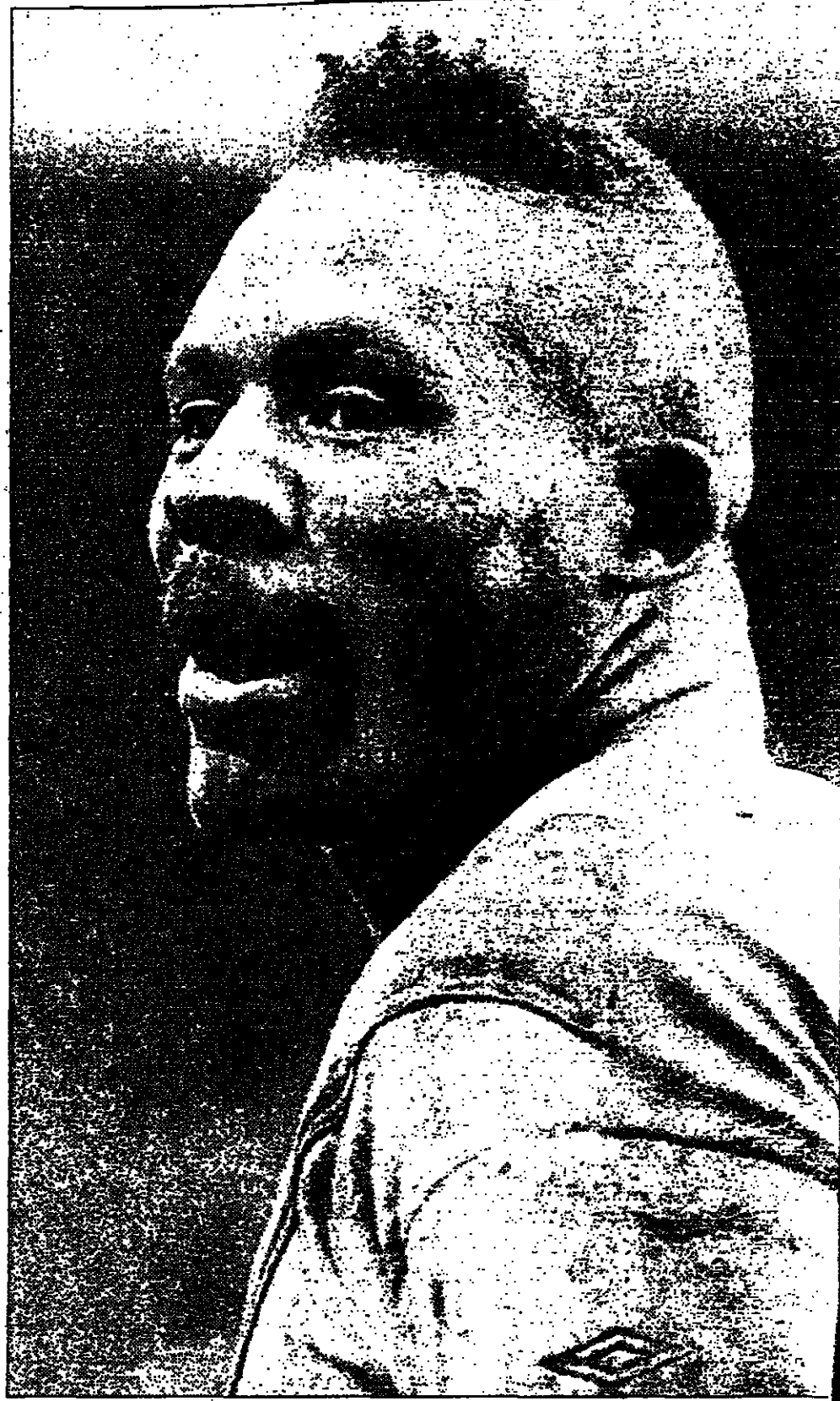
On Saturday the risk was triumphantly vindicated at Wembley, as Hanley, aged 30, soared to the heights of skill and courage to win the Man of the Match award in one of Great Britain's finest victories, and a classic of the professional code.

He had played only three full games since April, as he nursed the injury which still nags at him, and which will always be painful. But he broke through the pain barrier, to lead Great Britain to their first win over Australia in this country for a dozen years. Above all, he led the way to a British achievement which by common consent has given the 13-a-side code probably the biggest boost in its 95 years of existence.

Following the best *Boys' Own* tradition, Hanley has reached the pinnacle from the most humble and inauspicious beginnings. He was born to West Indian parents in one of the humbler areas of Leeds. His one talent was his natural athleticism, which he harnessed to good use in schools rugby league. However, a major obstacle to success developed during a stormy teenage era. It is a period Hanley understandably does not wish to talk about, and which his friends, equally understandably, do not mention. To put it euphemistically, it was a time when the wilful Hanley had several brushes with the law, which ultimately resulted in his being a guest for a couple of years at one of Her Majesty's penal institutions.

When he returned to normal life, Hanley, a wiser young man, set about piecing together a new life. His skills led him into amateur rugby league in Yorkshire, and he eventually undertook successful trials with Bradford Northern, the top West Riding first division club. This was the beginning, not merely of rehabilitation, but of his ascent into the higher reaches of world sport. His lithe form, pulverising hand-off and electrifying pace soon made him a favourite of the Northern fans, and an international star in the making.

In 1983 Hanley hit the television screens with one of those pieces of magic which, over the years, have been repeated so many



Bloodied and muddled but never bowed: Ellery Hanley, the finest rugby league player in the

times that every frame is now familiar. With Northern struggling in a Challenge Cup semi-final against Featherstone Rovers, he got the ball deep inside his own half and went up the touch line, shrugging off tackle after tackle to finish over the goal line. It was a wonderful effort, even in defeat, and a star was born.

In the 1984-85 season Hanley scored more than 50 tries for Bradford, and Wigan, the biggest spenders and the most ambitious club in the Rugby Football League, moved in and signed him up.

Before he went to Wigan, Hanley was an outstandingly good player, having played his first match for Great Britain, against France, in 1984. Wigan's rugby league machine made him an outstandingly great player.

Hanley joined a side already on the crest of the First Division, and whose home ground, Central Park, had become to rugby league what Anfield, the Liverpool home ground, is to football.

Trophy after trophy poured into the boardroom cupboard, and Hanley's progression towards being made captain of Great Britain became a formality.

When he was appointed captain of the 1988 touring team to Australia and New Zealand there

were those who questioned the choice, saying that some aspects of personality would militate against him as skipper. He is not always a sociable man, other than with close friends. He has very little truck with journalists, having gone through bitter experience of reporting that was more concerned with his troubled past than with his immense playing skills and the manner in which he has put that past behind. Critics felt that he would lack the warm touch and ready accessibility that captains need on tour, and would enclose himself in the shell of moroseness that shields him from importunate journalists who seek to dig and to probe, rather than to praise.

The situation between the Hanley and the press worsened during and after the 1988 tour, when Hanley was involved in a heavily publicised paternity suit, which in some sections of the press received more coverage than the Great Britain captain's exploits on the field of play. Hanley's poor relationship with journalists became exacerbated today, a Hanley statement or interview is a rarity.

He emerged from the tour as an outstanding leader of men, and no one now questions his right to the

captaincy or his ability to charge his duties with age and the power to team by example.

Hanley showed all this at Wembley on Saturday, when he made Britain's first try in 12 years over the Kangas superb kick and regal ball, which had even commentators purring. His opponents and generous in their praise. He is 28, personified, and remains of our own Wayne for 80 minutes."

Ray French, the 33-year-old mentor and a former national forward in both league and codes, Hanley as "the outstanding of the modern game perfect all-round player in everything from star rather than employing skills in one position." Hanley is on the achieving his greatest as leading Great Britain to winning triumph over an ambition that serves his life, and less than ago seemed as unobtainable as the moon.

Thoroughbred

The Duke of Beaufort in the November

TATLER



Tomorrow

"My customer is not a trained seal who will jump through a hoop. Women want to look sexy but authoritative, glamorous but comfortable, youthful but not childish." On the Design page we examine the style of Michael Kors (above), the Mr Clean of American fashion.

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LET IT THROUGH
THE TIMES

لقد كنت في الحب

When Colleen McCullough is 80, you will recognise her easily. "I plan to terrify everyone to death, smoking black cigars and sitting with my legs apart, wearing pink bloomers. It is not my intention to be a sweet old lady," she said.

As she revealed this she was smoking "the mildest" cigarettes you can buy, and sitting quite decorously in a pair of baggy trousers under a baggy tunic. Ms McCullough is on the English leg of the publicity tour for her new novel, *The First Man in Rome*, the first of five chronicling the events leading to the fall of the Roman Republic.

The First Man in Rome is not (for anyone who might have feared or hoped for such a thing) much like *The Thorn Birds*, her most famous novel. Ms McCullough does not, like so many mega-selling writers, lay a series of identically shaped golden eggs to make life more easily profitable for herself and her publishers. This is an exhaustively researched work of what the Americans call fiction. Indeed, so thoroughly researched is it that the glossary alone runs to 100 pages.

The book is, at various stages, hard work, exciting, moving, sexy and extremely gory, and she wrote it, she said, because she wanted to write a historical novel and there was no other period in history that had not been done to death. "If I see one more book about King Arthur," she said, "I'll spew."

Writing has made Ms McCullough a great deal of money. In particular, writing *The Thorn Birds* has made her a great deal of money. "But when I made it, I vowed I would never let money rule me." Which would mean?

"Which would mean I started to write for money. And that would necessitate an endless run of *Road to Thorn Birds*, *Son of Thorn Birds*, *Thorn Birds Three*. And I wasn't going to do that. All my books have been totally different. And it would also mean taking the money seriously, which I cannot do. I have an agent who worries about it, but I don't."

Nevertheless, she is happy to have it. "I am one of Australia's richest women. All of the others have inherited their money, so I," she said, with a touch of justifiable pride, "am known as Australia's richest self-made woman." And what does it do for her, being so rich, having self-made all that money? "Not a lot," she said. "It doesn't make you any happier. And you get soaked all along the way, especially when you're on your own. If you buy

'I have a disciplined bottom; all nurses are trained to walk fast and not wiggle their bottoms'

variation. I don't think I ever discovered feminine conversation."

She was, she said, a confident child. "I just don't know why. They were always trying to slap me down. I was altogether confident, socially as well. I went to a very posh school, but I never felt inferior to any of the other girls, even the ones from rich families."

The posh school was a convent in Sydney, where she and her mother finally settled when she was 12. "I begged to go there, and she said, 'I can't afford it, so it's up to you'. I got a scholarship. I was always very ambitious. I just wanted to succeed at whatever I did, I didn't know what at."

This ambition did not extend to having children. "I always knew they would have retarded my career." Her one

Renaissance man revisited

Colleen McCullough writes for pleasure but enjoys the profit. Penny Vincenzi meets Australia's richest self-made woman

a piece of land, have something done to the house, it's going to cost you twice as much if you're rich.

"But it's nice. To have your own money is wonderful. I always wanted to make my own money. I vowed to myself before I left school I would never in my life put myself in a position where I had to ask a man for a penny. And I married at an age and financial status where I did not have to ask my husband for anything. I just wasn't going to let myself care for anybody to the extent where I would have to marry them, and ask for the money for a pound of butter."

She developed this near phobia in childhood, when her mother was perpetually having to ask her father for money. "He was so mean and grudging. It was a very unhappy marriage." He worked on the sugar cane plantations. "He never housed my mother, she lived with her own people on the stations and they moved around the bush from one to another. It was a very nomadic existence. And I was the only female in my family for generations. There was no feminine influence in our household whatsoever. My mother had nine brothers, my grandmother 15. And either you sat there dumb at the table, or you participated in the masculine conversation. I don't think I ever discovered feminine conversation."

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This ambition did not extend to having children. "I always knew they would have retarded my career." Her one

clear ambition at this age was to be 6ft tall. "I wanted to look down on men. But I didn't make it."

She did make 5ft 10in, and is large with it. "But I do have a disciplined bottom. That was my nurse's training; all nurses are trained to walk very fast and purposefully and not wiggle their bottoms."

She nursed briefly, but was actually trained as a neurophysiologist at Yale, while she was there she wrote *Tim*, a novel about a handicapped young man, and then *The Thorn Birds*. This led to fame, fortune and a craving for privacy; and ultimately to Norfolk Island in the South Pacific, where she met and married, in 1984, Ric (full name Cedric, "and if you're going to be called Cedric, you'd better be 6ft 3in and 17 stone, which he is") Robinson.

He is a descendant of the Bounty mutineers, and is 13 years her junior. "But," she said, "actually he's much older than I am, a patriarchal figure." They met while he was painting her house, but this was an interim occupation while he waited 14 years or so for his 30 acre crop of rare Kentia palms to reach maturity. "When that does happen, he'll out-rich me."

He also, she said, "out-strongs" her. "He says, 'Hush your mouth, woman', and I shut up." (This is just a little hard to believe.) It was not love at first sight; two years elapsed between meeting and marriage. "I think that's the best way."

Now they live in Outyenna, a house and estate, on Norfolk Island — "it's like a small country, we support 25 families" — in somewhat oddball bliss. "I tuck him up every night at about nine or ten, and then I go to work." She works for ten, 12, sometimes 18 hours at a stretch. "Those are happy hours. I love it. I think all these writers who say they hate writing just want to make it appear more difficult. They think it sounds bad to say it's a

breeze." Was it a breeze for her? "Yes, sometimes it is. Sometimes it just goes. It's pure pleasure."

So, here she is, at the age of 53, not quite at the black cigars and pink bloomer stage; successful, famous, seriously rich. She drew the illustrations for *The First Man in Rome* (which will be published on November 1 by Century, £14.99) and is writing the lyrics for a musical of *Tim*. Someone once called her a renaissance woman: "but I'm not. I'm renaissance man. Renaissance woman sat around doing embroidery and trying to please her man."

She is, she said, happy, hopeful, optimistic. What would she do if she lost all her money tomorrow? "Oh," she said, "I have a husband now. I would look to him." Isn't that cheating? "No it isn't," she said, "and I'll tell you something. He'd be as happy as a pig in shit to be the total breadwinner. But I don't think he'd subject me to asking him for the price of a pound of butter."

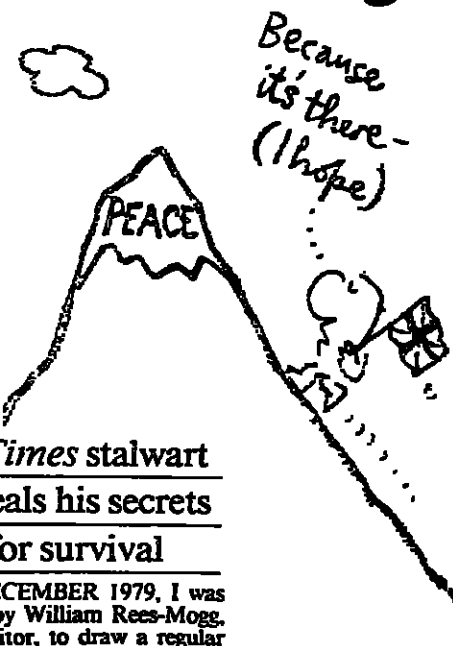
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Relishing the happy hours: Colleen McCullough sometimes works 18 hours at a stretch

Chuffed, chuffed.

calman
Drawn to laughter



A Times stalwart reveals his secrets for survival

IN DECEMBER 1979, I was hired by William Rees-Mogg, the Editor, to draw a regular front-page cartoon for this newspaper. He was too shy to ask me himself, so Louis Heren, the deputy editor, was the one who took me to lunch and popped the question. It remains the only time I have been given lunch by a newspaper editor.

When I joined *The Times*, it was very much like entering a men's club, terribly genteel. For a while, I went to the afternoon conferences where the various heads of department sat in a semi-circle around Rees-Mogg, who occupied a large cane rocking chair and sipped China tea. Jokes were sometimes made — but they were usually either about old books or new cricketers.

I used to show my cartoon ideas to the deputy editor, who referred them to Rees-Mogg only when the jokes were controversial — that is, about the Royal Family and the Catholic Church. A cartoon like the one I did a year or so ago, where a little girl is saying, "When I grow up I want to be Pope", would have been impossible in Rees-Mogg's day.

I cannot draw for a vast body of unknown people called readers. I draw for the Editor or more often the back bench, the name given to the motley crew who make all the

editorial decisions on a newspaper. If they have any glimmer of humour, all is well. If then do not (that is, if they do not like what I do), all is lost. If the editor does not like a cartoon, I start again.

Before I begin drawing, I try to clarify my attitude to the subject: what is the general feeling out there? And if it is a long-running topic, how the devil can I find a fresh angle on it? Trying to be funny comes next. I'm not much good at being significant. I try to make a small pinprick in the portentous bubble of our leaders and their utterances.

I cannot imagine how I have survived this job for 11 years and five Editors. Mostly, I suspect, by keeping a low profile. It is a trick I learned in the army during national service, when I wanted to avoid extra guard duty. I come in each evening as quietly as possible, get the drawing done and accepted, and leave before anyone in authority can call me back to change it. I think I have not been fired simply because they forget I am there.

MEL CALMAN

© Merrie England plc, a collection of Mel Calman's cartoons for *The Times*, is published on November 1 by Mandarin Paperbacks (£3.99).

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INTERCITY **Hertz**

FESTIVAL: WEXFORD

Soprano makes the high note

Wexford has always been most at home with the operas of the 19th century. *Steal a Year* and *Leoncavallo's Zaza*, first performed in 1900, will squeeze into that category. Like *Adriana Lecouvreur* and *Ariadne*, it begins backstage, with performers and hangers-on flirting and squabbling. But *Leoncavallo's* theatre is of a seedier kind, no more than vaudeville, in fact, and he clearly drew from his own experience of the days when he was a lowly rehearsal pianist. *Zaza* is the singer with the requisite two admirers, one her partner on the boards, Cascart, and the other, a stage-door-johnny newly arrived on the scene, called Milio. Would that *Leoncavallo* had been able to sustain the colour and bustle of this opening act. But his own text turns sentimental as *Zaza* discovers that Milio has a wife and family and, like *Violetta*, renounces him for the sake of good bourgeois propriety. He does, though, give himself a powerful third act, with a reflective aria for the tenor (Carreras recorded it not so long ago) and a grand final emotional scene of decision for *Zaza* herself.

This was carried off in masterly style by a young American soprano, Karen Notare, who is this year's Wexford discovery. Her full, unfettered singing, with the voice coloured in dark shades when required, would make her a natural for Puccini in general and *Manon Lescaut* in particular. The career looks set to take off. Claude-Robin Pelletier sang sweetly as *Zaza's* new lover and John Cimino warmly as her old one. There were no weaknesses in the cast, sharply directed by James Hayes in sets by Ruari Murchison, which gave the tiny Wexford stage seemingly impossible perspective. Bruno Rigucci made the score sound better than it probably is, in an evening which pulled forgotten *Zaza* well above her own vaudeville level.

Boieldieu's *La Dame blanche* (1825) is even more firmly anchored in its own time. It was once hugely popular, admired by Weber and even Wagner. But the libretto cobbled together by Scribe, if that is not an insult to cobblers, from an assortment of Scott novels has even less thrust than that of *Zaza*. The white lady of the title is an apparition who turns out to be real flesh and blood, so much so that at the close of the rambling third act she lays just claim to the castle she haunts and the rich young man she wants to marry.

The French producer Jean-Claude Auvray, back in Wexford after a lengthy absence, remains true to the simple sentiments of the story while being careful to enliven the duller passages. Wisely, he cuts out swathes of

spoken dialogue and pushes things along as fast as they will go, although the pace is not exactly breakneck. He is abetted by the festival's second clutch of imaginative designs, this time by Kenny MacLellan, who dresses a fantasy Scotland in shades of grey and white.

Boieldieu is at his best in the big concerted numbers, notably the auction scene which closes the second act, with the Wexford chorus (much improved in recent years) in top form. The solo writing owes much to Rossini and makes similar vocal demands. Mariette Kemmer, in the title role, was well up to them in this vintage year for sopranos. Jorge de Leon, as her childhood sweetheart Georges Brown, was not only a small tenor emerged from his handsome, muscular frame, and even that was a hit-and-miss affair on opening night. Again, there was an impressive supporting cast, led by Gillian Knight as a gurgling old servant and Andre Cognet as the villain who is not even allowed an aria. Emmanuel Joel was the lively young conductor.

A still lingering commitment to the 20th century, and an Irish setting, County Mayo in 1875, were probably behind the decision to revive Nicholas Maw's *The Rising of the Moon*. Everyone was very friendly to it when first seen at Glyndebourne precisely 20 years ago, but it did not exactly win a place in the communal heart. Beverly Cross's libretto of the young officer who has to win his military spurs in smoking, carousing and seducing within a single night was too thin, and Maw's orchestration too thick. A comedy in which the words are inaudible, and quite often none too singable, is no comedy. On revival the orchestra was thinned out a bit, but not sufficiently, and the lesson has not been learnt at Wexford.

Simon Joly conducted an unreasonably raucous performance and the singers had to bellow across the orchestra when they should have been nudging chuckles from the audience. The Irish contingent came off better than the visiting English military, which is, perhaps, as it should be for a home fixture. Francis Egerton was the crafty monk who opens and closes the tale, and Pamela Stephen the colleen who provides a brief love affair in between the obligatory seductions. Mark Calkins, as the young officer, looked relieved at the end when he left the 31st Royal Lancers; and who would not be? The production, by Ceri Sherlock, was not in the same league as the other two evenings and *The Rising of the Moon* can now be put back to rest for another few years. The moon also sets.

JOHN HIGGINS

LITERATURE

William Goldman, whose latest novel lifts the lid on the Cannes Film Festival and the Miss America pageant, talks to Clive Davis

Drop William Goldman's name into a conversation in film circles, and the chances are he will be described as "the man who wrote that wonderful book". The work in question is *Adventures in the Screen Trade*, an exposé of the inner workings of the American film industry.

Yet there are other ways of describing him. He was the Oscar-winning screenwriter on *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *All the President's Men*. He has written an acclaimed nuts-and-bolts account of the Broadway theatre. He is the author of *The Princess Bride*, a much-loved children's tale. And he is a commercial novelist, whose use of cinematic techniques has won praise from American critics.

At a more trivial level, he can claim to be the only person to have been a judge, in the same year, at both the Cannes Film Festival and the Miss America beauty pageant. A dubious honour, perhaps, but it forms the basis for his new book, *Hype & Glory*, another cocktail of gossip, reportage and autobiography. The book also has a more serious strand: the disintegration of his marriage after 27 years. At the close, he is groping towards a new life as a single man.

Goldman did his duty at Cannes and Atlantic City in 1988. He writes about his experiences with his customary verve, throwing in screenplay-style dialogue and New York street-talk. The Danish film *Pelle the Conqueror* won his vote for the Palme d'Or at Cannes. At the pageant he was transfixed by Miss Colorado and Miss Mississippi, but saw the prize go to a fiddle-playing "God-clutcher" from Minnesota. The tackiness and solemnity reminded him of the Academy Awards ceremony. And he loved it. "It's a throwback to an earlier time, when we Americans believed in the virtues we knew we didn't have."

We meet in his discreetly furnished pied-à-terre in Knightsbridge. The setting already seems familiar from the description in *Hype & Glory*: "too small bedrooms, a make-do kitchen, a glorious living room overlooking a square". It is a long way from the madness of Hollywood, the place that Goldman seems to love and loathe in equal measure. Three years after the film version of *The Princess Bride*, he returns to the limelight next month when his new film, *Misery*, opens in America. It is an adaptation of one of Stephen King's non-horror stories, directed by Rob Reiner, who was also in charge on the screen adaptation of *The Princess Bride*.

and King's story *Stand by Me*.

When Goldman wrote the final chapter of *Adventures*, in the summer of 1982, he spoke of the "greatest time of panic and despair in modern Hollywood history". The only runaway hit of the year at that point had been *Porky's*. Today, Hollywood seems awash with commercial success. Writers are commanding unheard-of fees.

Goldman ought to be overjoyed; he is not. "I've often thought that my favourite directors when I was growing up couldn't work now. I don't know what pictures have been made in recent years that Elia Kazan could have directed. Or Billy Wilder. Or George Stevens."

"For better or for worse — and I think for worse — America dominates world movies as never before in film history. The British don't want to see British films, the French don't want to see French films. Audiences want to see big, dopey movies with action and adventure. Body-count films. We spend a lot of money on making them, and we're good at them."

Not that Goldman is an uncritical admirer of European "art house" cinema. Though he adores *Pelle the Conqueror* and *Cinema Paradiso*, his patience can run short at times. Hence his description, in *Hype & Glory*, of *A Short Film about Killing*: "a greenish-tinted Polish film about a punk who kills a cab driver for no reason, but the murder takes, oh, 15 minutes."

Obscurity is one of his pet hates. He tries to make his own prose as accessible as possible. ("My greatest panic is that people will stop reading. That's why I have so many one-word paragraphs. I want to jerk your eye around.") In 1964, when he was still a novelist, he wrote a novel called *No Way to Treat a Lady*, with 53 chapters spread across just 160 pages. The novel caught the eye of the actor Cliff Robertson, who happened to be looking for a writer to work on a screenplay. The two men had a meeting, and Goldman's screenwriting career was born. The irony was that Robertson thought Goldman's book was a film "treatment" rather than a novel.

After so many years honing his craft, Goldman has a distrust of theorising, especially on the part of critics. His famous maxim is "nobody knows anything".

The Season, his 1969 book about Broadway, outlines his philosophy in the course of an inspired demolition job on the cult of Harold Pinter. Goldman opens with an extract from an early Pinter play, followed by a



Goldman: for better or for worse, America dominates world movies as never before in film history

dense piece of symbolic analysis from one of Kenneth Tynan's columns. Only much later does he reveal that both pieces are fakes. It is a neat piece of legerdemain, of the kind which crops up throughout his work. Of course, he runs the risk of being regarded as a Joe Six-Pack philistine.

"Look, my favourite writers aren't Jacqueline Susann or Mickey Spillane. They're Chekhov and all the Russians, and Cervantes, etcetera. I happen to like Pinter's stuff. I just hate all that talk about 'the unspoken

menace'. It doesn't matter, the art-object matters. The point is: do you care about what's happening up on stage?"

"I remember the first time I read *Don Quixote*. I was a college senior. When I realised that he was going to die, I threw the book across the room. I'd been so caught up in it and so thrilled that I wanted it to go on forever. Well, if you don't give a cuss whether the Don dies, the book doesn't work."

His candour must have made

him unpopular in some quarters. *Adventures*, *The Season* and *Hype & Glory* contain unflattering portraits of such luminaries as Dustin Hoffman, Mike Nichols and Al Pacino. Was he aware that, as a screenwriter, he might be making some powerful enemies? He shrugs his shoulders. The entertainment industry, he says sadly, is full of lies and deceit: for an author to add any more would be immoral.

● *Hype & Glory* is published by Macdonald at £12.95.

TELEVISION

Comfort for the overweight and alcoholic?

THERE was more plot in the first five minutes of *The Green Man* on BBC 1 last night than I suspect we shall get in all 12 remaining hours of *Twin Peaks*. A woman, walking through a forest in the dead of night, gets suddenly and revoltingly dismembered by a murderous tree. Back in the chic restaurant of the title, Albert Finney is waking up from a menopausal alcoholic nightmare. Along the corridor Sir Michael Horden is doing his celebrated impression of a dying walrus. All may not be well, although soon enough there are all the reassuringly familiar trappings of *Amis the Elder*.

A book first published 20 years ago, when Finney himself bought the screen rights, this is *Amis on his long march from *Lucky Jim* to *The Old Devils**. Finney is the personification as well as the owner of "The Green Man", suddenly enmeshed in a mid-life crisis, when sex and alcohol and death come together to demand resolution before nightfall.

As if all that were not enough to worry about, Finney has Bernard Levin and Clement Freud coming to taste his wine-list, while there is

the ghost of a Jacobean wife-killer lurking in the shrubbery and the doctor's nubile wife needing attention in a nearby field. Thus, as well as all the guilt about the eating and the drinking and the sex and the overdrafts, we also get Finney in his most familiar and characteristic role, that of a man who has somehow mislaid his career.

Elijah Moshinsky's production is as theatrical in its casting as its special effects, and the result looks much like a Hammer House of Horror movie that has mysteriously been shot in the Garrick Club on Ladies' Night.

There are two more weeks to go on this, and we have not even yet met the gay vicar with the thing about exorcisms. But all the old *Amis* demons are in place.

"He is just over 50," says Nicky Henson, the doctor, about Finney the fast-fading. "It is just when the road starts to go very sharply downhill for quite a while." That's the kind of line those of us born around 1940 are going to be worrying about at least until the end of the series.

Reassurance, however, came from Saturday's *Fat Man* in Argentina on Channel 4. Tom

Vernon, a reporter who unusually but splendidly seems to be almost exactly my age, weight and girth, propels himself very slowly around the world on a large bicycle, asking questions of locals who seem to have a day or two to waste shooting the breeze with an amiable foreigner.

Vernon started his bicycling on Radio 4, where it was only possible to guess at his shape from the faint wheezing noises which would accompany his cycle up foreign hills. Since then, the BBC has belatedly appointed a kind of cultural security officer, to stop the best of its radio talent escaping over the walls of Broadcasting House, but too late to preserve Vernon, who was already half way round Argentina with a film crew. He managed to spend the whole hour this week hardly mentioning the Falklands at all, contenting himself instead with the occasional vague inquiry about whether Eva Peron was popular, or why the gauchos cover their bulls (and I do mean bulls) with mayonnaise.

Deeply rooted in the cosy radio conventions of *Down Your Way*, Vernon only ever asks questions

which would be acceptable to the most elderly and conservative of parish priests, and his social or political discoveries are thus not spectacular. But his corpulent

charm is considerable: I am thinking of buying myself a bicycle and a tape recorder for the next summer holidays.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Karen Notare and Claude-Robin Pelletier in *Zaza*

Pick of the Week

CHRISTIE'S

THIS portrait of the Victorian painter Stanley Montefiore was executed by Henry Stacy Marks, one of the founders of the St John's Wood Clique. Marks was a notorious practical joker and was criticised by Ruskin who for allowing this side of his character to impede his art. His studio sale was held by Christie's after his death in 1898. This painting will be included in the sale of Victorian Pictures, Drawings and Watercolours at Christie's, King Street on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 November.

For further information on this and other sales in the next week, please telephone Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (071) 839 9060.

Henry Stacy Marks, R.A. Portrait of E.B. Montefiore, Son of Lord de L'Isle, Oil on canvas laid down on panel, London, 1890-1898

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THE TIMES
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CHRISTIAN?

The Education Reform Act was meant to rescue school worship from a 'mish-mash of collectivism'. Has it succeeded? News Focus investigates.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
- Friday -

ARTS

BRIEFING

Yanks to go home

AMERICAN plays may abound in London, but few of them are drawing the punters. That is demonstrated by the imminent closures of August Wilson's *Fences* and A.R. Gurney's *Love Letters*. The former received warm reviews but never won over the West End public, which is traditionally lukewarm about all-black drama. The latter was warmly received, although the producers hope to bring it back in the new year with a fresh set of stars.

Of interest will be what happens to the shows chosen to replace them, since neither is an obvious commercial bet. The Garrick next gets the revival of Jean Anouilh's *The Rehearsal* with Nicola Pagetti, fresh from its run at the Almeida. Wyndham's, meanwhile, inherits the much admired Chichester production of Ingmar Bergman's *Scenes from a Marriage*, with its Sussex stars, Penny Downie and Alan Howard.

Going Dutch
ONE of the Royal Ballet's senior dancers, Wayne Eagling, is leaving Covent Garden to become artistic director of the Dutch National Ballet. Eagling, who takes over his new job next September, will succeed Rudi van Dantzig, who wants to devote more time to writing, after having considerable success with his first novel. Van Dantzig will, however, remain as resident choreographer.

The National Ballet had hoped for another Dutch director. Two candidates were being groomed, but first Henny Juriens was killed in a road accident and then Hans Ebbelaar quit ballet when his ballerina wife Alexandra Radu retired earlier this year. Eagling has signed a three-year contract: too early to reveal plans, he says.

Musical fellow
THAT veteran creator of care-free musical comedy, Vivian Ellis, is 86 today. He is about to receive a fellowship from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama — a recognition not just of his compositional charms (*Bless the Bride*, *Mr Cinders*), but of his work campaigning for other composers as president of the Performing Right Society, and of his encouragement of young composers. With apt timing, the winner of the first Vivian Ellis Prize for new musicals, back in 1985, is about to receive a London production: *Just So*, by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe (based on Kipling), is now in rehearsal at the Tricycle, Kilburn.

Eastern promise
RECENT events in Eastern Europe are the inspiration behind the London Sinfonietta's adventurous South Bank series, "Explorations", which starts tomorrow. The four concerts will put new music by British composers alongside that of Poles, Romanians and East Germans, with six world premieres and seven British premieres in all.

Gorecki's setting of Shakespeare's "Good night... light of angels sing thee to thy rest", first heard at the memorial concert for the Sinfonietta's previous artistic director Michael Vyner in May, will now be heard complete with its other movements. Works of George Benjamin, H.K. Gruber and Franco Donatoni are also in store.

Stars line up

AFTER devoting yesterday to Arthur Miller's 75th birthday celebrations, the Young Vic today begins an amazing week of theatrical events: 12 a day for the next seven days: talks, workshops, plays and master classes. The aim is to raise more cash to keep the theatre going through its current financial troubles.

Dorothy Tutin, Edward Fox and Ben Kingsley appear in various items today; tomorrow features Susannah York in Copestake's *The Human Voice*; later in the week there is a Peter Barnes premiere set in the guts of a London hotel. Chichester's gripping production of *Thérèse Raquin*, John Cleese talking about *Wanda* and (on Saturday) Michael Maloney and Bob Peck in Jack Shepherd's excellent play about William Blake and Tom Payne's *In Lambeth*. And there are 64 other events — Diana Quick, Michael Palin, several Chicks. Young Vic Festival hotline: 071-633 0133.



Susannah York: aid for Vic

Wales in Japan
IN TOKYO to attend the enthronement of the Emperor of Japan, the Prince and Princess of Wales will also lend support to British culture. They will attend a performance of *Salome* given by Welsh National Opera, which is touring Japan for the UK90 festival of British culture.

Last chance...

SINCE the Royal Shakespeare Company closes the Barbican Theatre and the Pit on Saturday — and may not re-open either until February — this is a week of last chances at its metropolitan Oz. Gorky's *Barbarians* and Michael Hastings' *Dream of People* both end tomorrow; Howard Brenton and Tariq Ali's homage to Gorbachev, *Moscow Gold*, and Shakespeare's *Pericles* close on Thursday; Peter Flannery's *Singer* and Paula Milne's *Earwig* on Saturday itself. The least missable is probably Flannery's blend of moral rumination and social cartoon: a big, sprawling play notable for Antony Sher's glittering performance in the title role, a property shark based on Rachman.

THEATRE

Fine sense of the ridiculous

A two-man burlesque melodrama, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, opens tomorrow in the West End. Benedict Nightingale recalls the extraordinary career of the late Charles Ludlam, its author

THE ending of his play, *Camille*, was the quintessence of Charles Ludlam. Marguerite hacked out her last tubercular breaths in a painfully realistic style. Armand wailed in manly grief over her body. But something was not quite normal. She had a large nose, big hands and a hairy chest, and was, as it happened, played by the author himself. And Armand's lamentations came to a quivering climax with the words, "toodle-oo, Marguerite".

Unsurprisingly, the listeners laughed, and did so again when the moment was recalled at a memorial service for Ludlam back in 1987, the year he died. He was 44 and had made his Ridiculous Theatre Company the kind of cult that is possible only in California guru country or among the dramaphiles of New York. Tomorrow London gets the chance to discover what it was that drew the famous and the fashionable to the tarty 143-seat basement in Greenwich Village that is now called the Charles Ludlam Theatre.

Ludlam's *Mystery of Irma Vep*, at the Ambassadors, is a burlesque melodrama indebted to Conan Doyle, Poe, Daphne du Maurier, most of the Brontës and the Ibsen of *Rosmersholm*, among others. When it was first performed in New York, back in 1984, the author himself took half the roles, including Lady Hillcrest, the agonised mistress of the fog-shrouded grange Mandacrest, and a deformed butler called Nicodemus. Ludlam's lover, Everett Quinton, played the other parts.

This gothic knockabout has

since been performed from Idaho to Alaska, and remains Ridiculous Theatre's biggest commercial success; but Ludlam wrote nearly 30 plays in the 23 years he belonged to the company, some of them zanier as well as more ambitious. His early *Conquest of the Universe*, for instance, was a parody of Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*, with a hero who got so bored with grabbing continents he started conquering galaxies instead. The character had its resemblances to Ludlam, whose satiric embrace extended from *King Lear* to *Finnegans Wake*, old movies to grand opera, Kabuki to French farce to vaudeville.

The son of a Long Island plasterer, Ludlam was always restless and rebellious, and once said he would have become a criminal but for a fascination with *outré* spectacle that began early. When he was six, he was taken to a fair to see armless black dwarves painting pictures with their toes. Fifteen years later, he discovered his own freak-show. He joined the Ridiculous Theatre, an off-off-Broadway company in the process of evolving "from the absurd to the absolutely preposterous", to play Peeping Tom in its *Lady Godiva*.

Soon, he had become the theatre's director, writer and star, and was building up a permanent troupe of performers with names such as Black-Eyed Susan and Mink Stole. At first they played on a rough wooden platform in a bar, raided rubbish tips for their props and costumes and regarded themselves as subsidised by the New York Welfare Department. The



Gothic knockabout: Nicholas Grace (left) and Edward Hibbert in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*

story goes that Ludlam qualified for financial support after going to see a city psychiatrist, who thought his claims to be a theatre director were evidence of mental disturbance.

Much nudity, bawdy and cross-dressing characterised these, the Ridiculous's most anarchic years. The audiences were predominantly homosexual, and saw the company as a savage campaigner for gay rights. That was not Ludlam's intention, but he admitted later that "nothing was too far out for me. I wanted to outrage." It was the period of his *Turds in Hell*, of which little but the title is remembered, and his *When Queens*

Collide, in which transvestites came from all over New York to join a dance of Martian firewomen.

As the Seventies progressed, he decided to become more mainstream. His work was now less wild, more structured, if still pretty scurrilous. In *Bluebeard*, he appeared with fez and gaudily painted chin-whiskers to play a mad scientist dedicated to inventing a "new and gentler genital". Then came *Eunuchs of the Forbidden City* — "I don't think of myself as castrated, just as extremely well circumcised" — and *Camille*.

With that, the critics began to take Ludlam seriously. The *New York Times* proclaimed his *Marguerite* "no facile female impersonation, but a real performance". There were

reportedly nights when he got so carried away that he had to hide his deathbed sobs from the audience. Somehow he was able to keep the laughter going while, in his words, "going into a trance onstage and believing in my role completely". If this was high camp, it was also high-class camp.

Ludlam once wrote a manifesto for his "Ridiculous Theatre. Scourge of Human Folly". "Test out a dangerous idea, a theme that threatens to destroy one's whole value system," he ordered. "Treat the material in a madly farcical manner without losing the seriousness of the theme." His earlier work was hardly so earnest in intention, nor was his later stuff so subversive. But both combined a lunatic

extravagance of idea with the physical and verbal derring-do it needed. As a friend said after he died, audiences arrived expecting far too much of him, "and he readily obliged".

At his death, Ludlam was writing a play about Houdini ("a piece of pure escapism") and preparing to direct *Titus Andronicus* for the New York Shakespeare Festival. What killed him was AIDS-related pneumonia, which he reportedly fought by placing live carp on his chest. Even his ideas about medicine were unorthodox. Even his end had its comedy.

● *The Mystery of Irma Vep* opens tomorrow at the Ambassadors Theatre, 171 St. James's Street, London WC2 (071-836 6111)

DANCE

Bringing a touch of Broadway to the classics

Gregory Osborne, principal guest dancer with English National Ballet, talks to Debra Craine

IF being a Broadway star means singing, dancing and acting, Gregory Osborne has at least made it two out of three. There is no singing in his life, but as principal guest artist with English National Ballet, there is plenty of dancing and acting, even if it is of the fairytale kind. Touring the regional theatres of Britain may be a far cry from the lights of the Great White Way he once dreamed about, yet Osborne is right where he wants to be. "I always wanted to be in show business and in a way I am because in classical ballet you're doing a play: it's theatre. I think I bring a touch of Broadway to my performances."

Certainly the role of the jealous poet Lensky, danced by the American visitor in ENB's production of John Cranko's ballet *Olegin*, gives him a part strong enough to indulge his thespian leanings. By comparison, the male leads he performs in *Coppelia* and *The Nutcracker* might be considered cardboard cutout characters. But Osborne is not put off; he believes the 19th-century classical ballets still have something to say.

"Those who say the prince-roles are two-dimensional are not looking deep enough," he says. "Classical ballets are like Greek plays, their characters have the same sort of tragic flaws. And I find they have total relevance today; human nature is human nature whether it's 1800, 1900 or the year 2000. When I do these

ballets I take them as being real, even though they are a fantasy. I don't know how people can say these are shallow, boring pieces of work. They're not doing their homework."

The 35-year-old Osborne has spent years doing his homework, first as a rising star of American Ballet Theatre, then as Erik Bruhn's golden boy at the National Ballet of Canada. He comes to ENB after a year on the road, pursuing a successful career as an international guest artist. Now he is in Britain "for as long as I could possibly be."

Despite his reputation as a ballet "prince", the *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* came late in Osborne's life. At ABT, where director Mikhail Baryshnikov was turning his repertoire away from the classics, the young soloist found himself dancing mostly in contemporary works. "I knew I was being groomed for a principal when I left, but my problem was the repertoire had changed and I was looking at contemporary ballet as my future. There were not a lot of opportunities to learn about the classics. For me the logical next step was to be the prince, but suddenly I felt my information was very limited in those ballets."

When Bruhn invited Osborne to join him at the National Ballet of Canada, the young dancer leaped at the chance to work closely with the great Danish *dansur noble*. In Toronto, under the guidance of his new mentor, Osborne found himself being groomed as a true classical dancer. "With Erik and his company I did every major classical ballet there is. I got my information."

Osborne also got his much dreamed-about Broadway break when, in his early twenties, he auditioned for Bob Fosse's *Dancin'*. "I always wanted to be a Broadway star. I think it's part of being an American. Growing up in

the States, you saw Busby Berkeley, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, and Shirley Temple. We grew up with all that stuff and it put a little bug in you as a child. Little by little, people guided me subtly into the classical idiom more and more, but I never felt like I had specifically made a choice so I think a bit of me

always pulls me towards the Broadway stage." Fosse offered him the lead in *Dancin'*. "At about four times the money I was making in the ABT corps," but when the ballet company offered him a soloist's contract, Osborne decided to stay put.

That was not the end of his show business career. In Can-

ada, Osborne was chosen to play the lead in a film called *Shadow Dancing*. "Let's just say it was a great experience. I loved doing the movie, but unfortunately the film got cut up in the editing room and it lost its initial *raison d'être* so it didn't turn out so well. I think my work was good in it."

Did the experience put him

off show business once and for all? Definitely not: those childhood visions of Busby Berkeley still beckon. "Sure, I would make another movie. I'll look at any offers. I'm accepting scripts now, and that includes the West End." Meanwhile, "I think it's time for ballet to groom princes once again."

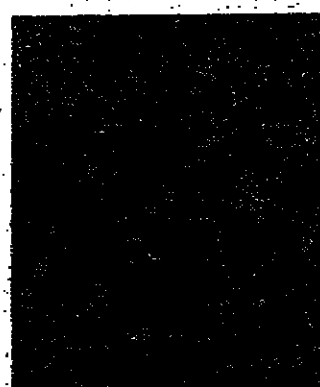
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Laurel was completely innocent. Last in

phone only to be asked whether she is

phone only to be asked whether she is the Chinese take-away. To be charitable, however, it ought to be recorded that in the joke's original version, it was a Chinese laundry. So the old net has, at least, been given a new twist. Misses, however, probably the only comedy actress working in television today who can handle such dialogue without wincing, in her mouth, it even makes some kind of surreal sense when she tells the electricity meter that she will not buy any more of his power unless he can guarantee that it is clean and that nobody else has already used it. Her repeated determination to be called Bouquet, although her name is actually Bouquet, is also a little annoying. 8.00 Nine o'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather 9.30 Panorama: Sins of the Fathers. Polly Toynbee reports on the Government's proposal to legislate so that fathers who have large families can be tracked down and forced to pay maintenance 10.10 Manticore FBI: Conspiracy. Robert Loggia stars as the jailed but competent FBI agent. Northern Ireland: Ulster is 10.30 Manticore FBI: Conspiracy 10.56 The Rock 'n' Roll Years. In Sparks the three-day week and 1974 (r) 11.25 Help Your Child with Reading. Northern Ireland: 11.15 Help Your Child with Reading 11.30 Advice Shop 11.40 Advice Shop examines the child benefit system 12.10am Northern. Northern Ireland: 12.00-12.30am The Rock 'n' Roll Years

sulted Meades to too sober-voiced to suggest a warm affection for the place. But not surprisingly, it leaves it to an unseen interviewer to talk to the contented shanty folk. Meades's slightly funereal aspect is entirely appropriate when he hands down his gloomy verdict that the modern version of the old shanties look like coffins for the living, suggesting the bereavement of invention. (Ceefax)

8.30 Nature: For God's Sake?
● CHOICE: There is impeccable logic in the Duke of Edinburgh's submission, which he makes during his interview with Michael Burk tonight, that if the world's religions preached that God had created everything, then they ought to be interested in preserving it. He has his back to Assisi four years ago, when he appealed to religious leaders to launch a series of global environmental initiatives. Now *Nature*, in harness with Burk who is himself an indelible champion of the cause, relations with the world, the ball rolling with a series of time of which tonight's is the first. There is nothing new in the argument, advanced tonight, that if man does not limit his numbers, then catastrophe will be the world's. Still, it needs a question mark after it. (Ceefax)

9.00 Film: Doing Life (1986). A small-time Brooklyn hoodlum becomes the world's first incarcerated attorney when he takes up law via a correspondence course while serving time in a New York maximum security prison. Based on a true story, this heavy-handed drama stars Tony Danza, John De Vries and Alvin Epstein. Directed by Gene Reynolds

10.30 Newsnight with Francine Stork
11.15 The 1986-87 Show Road The current crisis in Britain's theatres

11.55 Weather

12.20 Fighting Talk (q. Ends at 12.35am)

- 3.55 **Bugs Bunny and Friends (4/20)**
The Sooty Show. With Matthew Corbett. 4.45 Count Duckula. Animated fun with the duck from Transylvania.
- 5.10 **Who's the Boss? Role-reversal sitcom starring Tony Danza**
- 5.45 **News and weather**
- 5.55 **Thames Help.** This week the programme examines the work of the police movement.
- 6.00 **Home and Away (1)**
- 6.30 **Thames News and weather**
- 7.00 **The Krypton Factor.** Gordon Burns hosts television's toughest quiz, in which contestants are pushed to their physical and mental limits. A physical agility test is put to the test. (Oracle)
- 7.30 **Coronation Street.** Catch up with the characters at the Rovers. Tonight the Wiltors sell off on their dream holiday. (Oracle)
- 8.00 **French Fields.** Hester's over the moon when William beats the French at their game of boules. Will she manage to beat the rest of the village as their house goes to auction? Last in the comedy series starring Julia McKenzie and Anton Rodgers.
- 9.01 **Shelley.** Social misfit Shelley decides it's time to turn to an expert in his struggle to beat stress and tension. However, he decides it is not worth it. On TV next time in the present series starring Howell Bennett and David Ryall.
- 9.30 **World in Action: Mission to Baghdad.** A documentary following the fortunes of three wives from Merseyside who went on a mission to Baghdad to try and secure the release of their hostage husbands.
- 9.38 **That's the Way.** After a long lengths to prove his gift, Patsy finally discovers that Donald's trip with

Laurel was completely innocent. Last in the series starring Diana Hardcastle, Jimmy Mulville and Liza Goddard. (Oracle)

10.00 News at Ten and weather 10.30

10.40 Film: *The Amateur* (1982) starring John Savage and Christopher Plummer. After his journalist girlfriend is murdered by terrorists in the Munich crisis, her grandfather insists out to take revenge, and blackmails his CIA employers into helping him. What starts out as a tense thriller turns into a political melodrama. The film suffers from a lack of enthusiasm from a cast limited by a poor script. Directed by Charles Jarrott. Followed by News headlines

12.45 Sportsworld Extra. With the European PGA season drawing to a close, the action comes from Valderrama, Spain, as the world's top golfers compete for the title to enter the Volvo Masters. Plus a review of the weekend's football at home and on the continent. Introduced by Tony Francis. Followed by News headlines


1.40 Film: *Harper* (1968) starring Paul Newman, Lauren Bacall and Robert Wagner. *Low Harper* is a cynical private investigator who is hired to find and her missing husband. A fast-paced thriller aided by the competent performances of its distinguished cast. The film marked William Goldman's first credit as a screenwriter and Newman's first appearance as Harper, role he was to recreate in 1975. Directed by Jack Smight. Followed by News headlines

4.00 American College Football. Rice v Houston

5.00 TNN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

to an unseen interviewer to talk to

7.00 Channel 4 News
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside, Liverpool soap, charting the trials and tribulations of the residents of a suburban cul-de-sac. (Telstar)
8.30 My Two Dads. *She'll Get over It*. Return of the popular American comedy series about 12-year-old Nicole (Staci Keaney) who is being brought up by her two very different fathers — Michael, an ambitious young businessman, and Joey, a free-spirited artist — either of whom could be her biological father



Two victims of political violence (\$9.00pm)

9.00 Terror: The Decay of Democracy. The final part of the series on the causes and effects of modern terrorism examines the effects of political violence

on those who have used it and on governments that have fought against it particularly in Italy (the Red Brigades), Northern Ireland (the Provisional IRA) and the Basque region of Spain (ETA)

10.00 **Centropast.** The first episode of the contemporary thriller spanning three decades which follows a young man's search for the truth about his father, who apparently died in a car crash in 1979. The truth is revealed and the dream of peace and love is over. Roland and Saskia are left together, but without illusions. Starring Bob Peck, Peter Onorati and John Cazale

11.00 **Fresno.** Concluding part of the spoof spoof revolving round the Californian raisin industry and two families, the Kensingtons and the Canees, competing for supremacy in the Raisin Trust but being outwitted by Carol Burnett, Charles Grodin, Teri Garr and Dabney Coleman

12.00 **Psychoanalysis** after Freud. The first in a trilogy of programmes about French psychoanalysis and influential philosopher Jacques Lacan. Lacan, a disciple of Sigmund Freud, was born in 1901. Francois Weyss records a seminar held at a Belgian university, with Lacan discussing death, language and madness. The film takes a dramatic turn when the seminar is disrupted by a radical student who attacks Lacan's philosophy. (With English subtitles)

1.10am **Fortunata and Jacinta.** Episode eight of the adaptation of Benito Perez Galdos' classic novel about two women who love the same man – one his wife, the other his mistress. Fortunata's elderly father, Don Evaristo, arranges for her and Mena to be reconciled – and, by coincidence, she meets Jacinta again. (With English subtitles) (r). Ends at 2.10

SATELLITE

Wolff Biermann (4.30/9.15pm)

4.30 Kaleidoscope: Christina Reid reviews the Theatre Company's production of *The Edge*, a report on the Scottish Books Fortnight, including an interview with Ian Banks, an item on dog dancing in Newcastle, and the studio guest is East German rock musician Wolf Biermann

5.00 PM with Valerie Singleton and Hugh Sykes **5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather**

6.00 Six O'Clock News; Financial Report

6.30 The News Quiz: Topical quiz hosted by Barry Took (s) (r)

7.00 News

7.15 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme with Derek Cooper (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: *Antilla of the Savanah*, by Chinua Achebe. The story of the betrayals, tensions and passions that emerge when the West African state of Kangan is taken over by a military dictatorship. With *Newsweek* as his Excellency (s)

9.15 Kaleidoscope (broadcast at 4.30pm) (z)

9.45 The Financial World Tonight with Roger White (s) **9.55 Weather**

10.00 The World Tonight (z)

10.45 A Book At Bedtime: Five midnight tales by Bram Stoker, read by Dyfed Wynne. Part 1: *The Secret of the Grinning Gold*

11.00 Largely Walters: John Walters leads his wit and wisdom to us from around the country. This week he tackles the subject of animals (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament

12.00 The Shipping Forecast 12.20 Weather 12.30 Shipping Forecast

12.30/2.00pm: 1089kHz/277m FM-97.5/9.8 S. Radio 2
247m; FM-92.2 S. Radio 4; 1094kHz/1515m FM-
94.4/93.3m; 1094kHz/261m FM 97.5, Capital
1094kHz/206m; FM 94.3; Melody FM 104.8

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12.00 Sportsdesk 12.30am Italian Football

BSS NOW

8.00am The Day Today 8.15 High Street 8.45 Plat du Jour 9.00 The Day Today 9.15 The Jane Wollacott Show 10.00 Meet about Animals 10.20 Aerobics 11.00 Food on Sunday 11.50 First Edition Highlights 12.00 The Day Today 12.15pm European Business Today 12.45 VP 1.00 Gardeners' World 1.30 You Can Do It 1.45 Parenting 2.00 The Italians 2.30 The Jane Wollacott Show 3.15 Plat du Jour 3.30 Self-Visitation 4.00 The VP Show 4.45 Driving with Mike Smith 5.15 Parenting 5.30 World Alive 8.00 High Street 8.30 Gardener's World 7.00 First Edition 7.45 You Can Do It 8.00 Take Six Cooks 8.30 Animals at Altona 9.00 Nine 9.45 How Laster 10.00 Africa 11.00 Left, Right and Centre 11.30 European Business Today 12.00 First Edition 12.45pm VP

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Economic aid top priority of Gorbachev visit to Paris

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's two-day official visit to Paris which began last night has a notable absence of the pomp and circumstance that accompanied the Soviet leader's last trip to Paris. The French consider that the "Gorbysmania" that greeted Mr Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, in the summer of last year, just before the bicentenary celebrations of the French revolution, is already a thing of the past.

This time Mr Gorbachev is looking, with increasing desperation, for economic help from the bilateral treaty that he and President Mitterrand will sign at the end of some intensive working sessions. The immediate objective, says the Elysée palace's chief spokesman, Hubert Vedrine, is "to help the great transformation of the Soviet Union by all possible means and in the best circumstances available."

The new Franco-Soviet treaty, formally requested by Mr Gorbachev, has been drafted "with an eye on the future", M Vedrine observed last week. It was "open,

very ambitious and quite without precedent" in relations between the two countries. For France, it would reinforce a policy established after Mr Gorbachev's rise to power five years ago and his dash for political reform.

As the French are well aware, Mr Gorbachev has to take home from Paris a solid political accord and sufficient promise of economic assistance to keep the most virulent of his domestic critics at bay. Cooperation deals involving transport, telecommunications, nuclear power generation and technical training are expected to feature in the letters of intent the two leaders will sign.

In the run-up to the culminating assembly of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Paris next month - billed as the official funeral of the cold war - the Elysée is anxious to emphasise that agreements reached with Mr Gorbachev will not infringe the nation's obligations to the Atlantic alliance and the European Community.

Some observers here see the absence of a formal non-aggression pact between France and the Soviet Union in the new treaty as a reflection of this concern in Paris. M Vedrine observes merely that in the present state of relations there is no need for any such engagement.

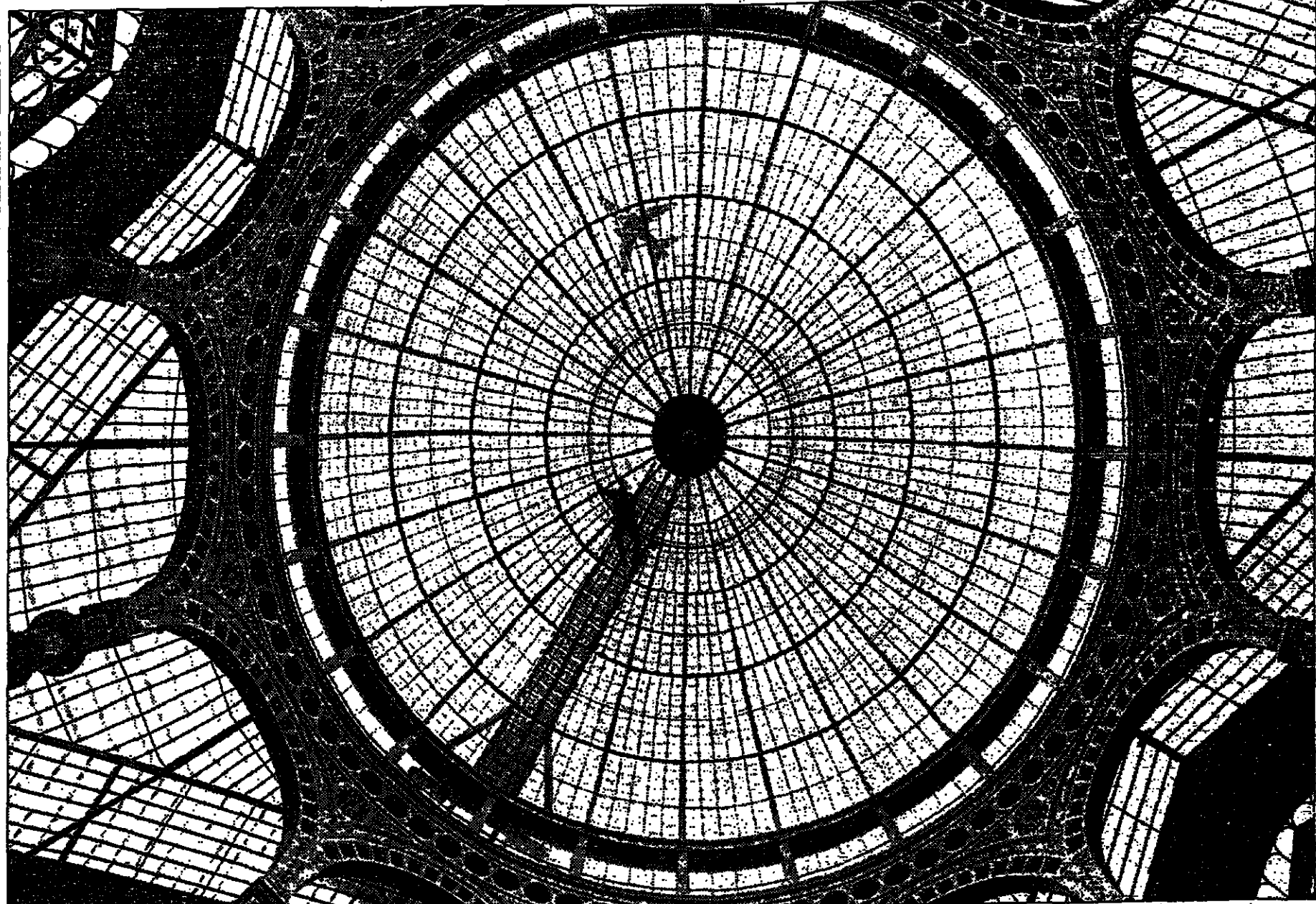
As ever, the French are looking over one shoulder at what the Germans are getting up to with the Soviet Union. There will be no attempt in Paris to match the scope of the agreements that were signed and sealed by West Germany just before unification. Some officials here wonder aloud whether the security element of those accords is entirely compatible with the likely requirements of West European defensive strategy for the 21st century.

The anticipated arrival in Paris of some 300 liberated French hostages this week - deliberately timed by Saddam Hussein? - seems unlikely to influence the two leaders' discussions. According to M Vedrine, there is no reason to expect any Franco-Soviet initiative in the Gulf to emerge from the discussions, though, as he observed to journalists, you never can tell.

MADRID: President Gorbachev left Barcelona for Paris yesterday after an official visit to Spain in which he arranged credits of at least \$1.5 billion (£770 million) for the Soviet Union (Harry Debelius writes).

He arrived in Madrid last Friday for the first official visit ever made to this country by a chief of state of the Soviet Union, and he flew to Barcelona yesterday morning for a brief private visit.

Moscow commentary, page 10
Leading article, page 13



Dome-laden: Tony French, a maintenance engineer, checking the roof of the conservatory at Syon House, west London, in anticipation of the gales forecast for today

Soviet troops are sent to Moldavia amid fear of armed ethnic clashes

FROM MARY DELEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SOVIET interior ministry troops were yesterday sent into three southern districts of Moldavia to prevent clashes between the local population of ethnic Turks, known as Gagauz, and ethnic Romanians volunteers armed with guns, spades and chains. Tass said that no casualties had been reported and that the Moldavian president, Mircea Snegur, had appealed for calm.

Moscow approved sending interior ministry troops to the region on Saturday, apparently at the request of the Moldavian authorities. Initial reports said that a regiment of the troops, normally based in the republic's capital, Kishinev, had been placed at the disposal of the republic's government, but subsequent reports indicated that they would be under the direct command of Colonel-General Yuri Shatalin, overall commander of the interior ministry troops.

As the troops were sent to the troubled region, a statement issued by the Soviet government yesterday expressed support for the talks started on Saturday between the Moldavian leadership and Gagauz representatives and expressed the hope that they would lead to a "normalisation" of the situation. The chairman of

the Soviet parliament, Anatoli Lukyanov, said that the Soviet authorities were monitoring events continually and said that a deputy interior minister, Ivan Shilov, had been sent to the area. Tension in the predominantly Turkish-populated regions of southern Moldavia rose on Thursday, when elections scheduled for Sunday, were brought forward to pre-empt opposition from the Moldavian leadership. Hundreds of young volunteers, many of them armed, travelled in a convoy of buses from Kishinev to the Gagauz region, threatening to stop the elections by force. The Gagauz intended to elect a parliament to implement their two-month old



declaration of independence from Moldavia.

On Friday, the Moldavian parliament, meeting in emergency session, declared a state of emergency in the three southern districts of the republic and pronounced the elections invalid. The declaration said any elections were void, set up direct rule from Kishinev, and banned all assemblies and demonstrations. Tass yesterday reported two Moldavian government orders on the maintenance of law and order. The first instructed local authorities in another ethnic minority region of the republic which has also declared independence - the Dniester region populated mainly by ethnic Russians - to produce a programme of action for "normalising the situation" in the region for implementation by the end of the year.

The second, applying to the whole republic, provided for "the strictest possible measures", including dismissal, to prevent disruption of industry and the economy. It instructed that law and order should be stepped up, if necessary using volunteers.

A statement last yesterday from the Soviet interior ministry said that the region remained tense, but said that the situation in the

Gagauz regional centre, Komrat, and other towns in the region was under control.

Moldavia is riven by nationalist passions among rival ethnic groups that include many minority Russians who settled there after the republic was incorporated into the Soviet Union from Romania in 1940.

Interior ministry troops are fully-armed combat troops who are under military rather than army command. They have been used in preference to the army in many trouble spots in the past two years, including the trans-Caucasian republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan and in the Fergana valley in Central Asia, which has seen a series of ethnic clashes over land use.

Service in the interior troops is unpopular because of the likelihood of being drafted into areas of ethnic conflict, and mothers of conscripts have held demonstrations in an attempt to stop their sons being drafted. There have been hints that the interior ministry troops might become the first fully professional branch of the armed forces and the minister, Vadim Bakatin, said last week that these troops might in future be republic-based, rather than under central command.

Eleven die in crashes in the rain

Continued from page 1

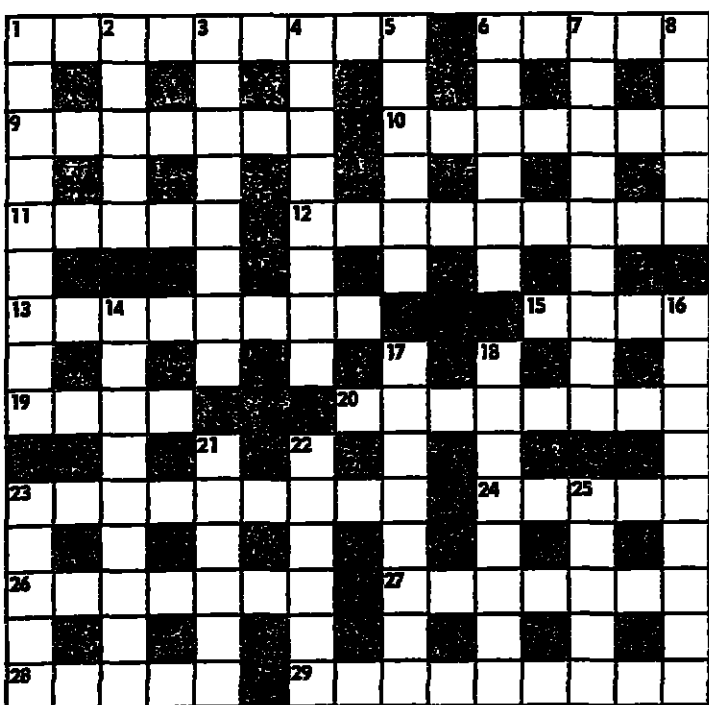
Two men who died in a road accident at Eversley Cross, near Basingstoke, Hampshire, late on Saturday night have been named as David Lennon, aged 18, of Kingsley Road, Eversley, Hampshire, the driver of the Ford Escort car, and his passenger, Tony Farris, aged 20, of Hawley, Hampshire.

A young woman died after her Vauxhall Astra car was in collision with a lorry on the M27 near Winchester, Hampshire. A man who was a passenger in the car is in hospital with serious injuries.

In Essex two people died in a car crash on the A1301 near Malden. The accident happened on Saturday afternoon. They both lived in the village.

A man died after a freak accident during an operation to demolish two chimneys at an old Plymouth power station yesterday (photograph, page 3). Police said that Lionel Cooper, aged 46, of Staddiscombe post office, Plymouth, was struck by a large piece of mud after one of the chimneys fell into a quarry. When the chimney crashed large chunks of mud were thrown up into the air.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,437



ACROSS
1 Anyone would regret wearing this next to the skin (4,5)
6 Pawn finally - credit is short (3)
9 The main supervisor (7)
10 Put restrictions on study choice (7)
11 Do the crossword, if alone, about five (5)
12 Sound tranquillisers used in early restraints (9)
13 A couple of pence increase in value (8)
15 Prison activity (4)
19 Hearing device left behind? Lord! (4)
20 A quarter at present work without a medico - such a bloomer (8)
23 Despair at being treated as unequal (9)
24 The opener very often shows resolution (5)

DOWN
1 Delivers fish as a goodwill gesture (9)
2 The rogue over the Spanish force (5)
3 It's impertinence to criticise kitchen equipment (8)
4 The dreamer is idle at work (8)
5 Set about getting weight-lifting equipment (6)
6 Dance is permitted twice (6)
7 Mixing in a riot he started (9)
8 Bear down on newsmen (5)
14 Dying of hypothermia? (9)
16 Appear as concerned with gift (9)
17 Anger due to change, though only minor (5,3)
18 The person responsible for marking pens (8)
21 Virginia is incapable of being thoughtful (8)
22 Producer of pictures approached an artist (6)
23 Dead gunmen in a ditch (5)
25 Study English writer (5)

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,436 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Concise Crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

SOLIM

a. A game of Patience
b. A medical placebo
c. A piece of ground

GADI

a. An Indian throne
b. A navigational system
c. An outdoor lavatory

SYLLEPSIS

a. A double construction
b. Pneumo-bronchitis
c. A logical misunderstanding

KECKS

a. Treasures
b. Horse-flies
c. Roll call at Cheltenham Ladies'

Answers on page 20, column 1

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WEATHER

England and Wales will have showers with sunny intervals. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be showery with longer spells of rain, heavy at times. Northeast Scotland will start dull and wet, brightening later, although the Shetlands may stay wet for much of the day. Temperatures a little below normal and still windy in places. Outlook: unsettled with showers and sunny intervals. Windy at times.

ABROAD

Medday	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	17	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97	103	109	115	121	127	133	139	145	151	157	163	169	175	181	187	193	
Amsterdam	17	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97	103	109	115	121	127	133	139	145	151	157	163	169	175	181	187	193	
Antwerp	17	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97	103	109	115	121	127	133	139	145	151	157	163	169	175	181	187	193	
Athens	21	27	33	39	45	51	57	63	69	75	81	87	93	99	105	111	117	123	129	135	141	147	153	159	165	171	177	183	189	195	
Bahia	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97	103	109	115	121	127	133	139	145	151	157	163	169	175	181	187	193	199	205	
Barcelona	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	
Berlin	13	19	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97	103	109	115	121	127	133	139	145	151	157	163	169	175	181	187	
Bombay	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	198	
Buenos Aires	19	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97	103	109	115	121	127	133	139	145	151	157	163	169	175	181	187	193	
Budapest	17	23	29	35	41	47	53	59	65	71	77	83	89	95	101	107	113	119	125	131	137	143	149	155	161	167	173	179	185	191	
Cairo	23	29	35	41	47	53	59	65	71	77	83	89	95	101	107	113	119	125	131	137	143	149	155	161	167	173	179	185	191	197	
Cape Town	20	26	32	38	44	50	56	62	68	74	80	86	92	98	104	110	116	122	128	134	140	146	152	158	164	170	176	182	188	194	
Chicago	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	
Chennai	16	22	28	34	40	46	52	58	64	70	76	82	88	94	100	106	112	118	124	130	136	142	148	154	160	166	172	178	184	190	
Copenhagen	11	17	23	29	35	41	47	53	59	65	71	77	83	89	95	101	107	113	119	125	131	137	143	149	155	161	167	173	179	185	
Corfu	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	
Dublin	10	16	22	28	34	40	46	52	58	64	70	76	82	88	94	100	106	112	118	124	130	136	142	148	154	160	166	172	178	184	
Düsseldorf	19	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97	103	109	115	121	127	133	139	145	151	157	163	169	175	181	187	193	
Faro	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	
Frankfurt	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	
Geneva	13	19	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97	103	109	115	121	127	133	139	145	151	157	163	169	175	181	187	
Glasgow	14	20	26	32	38	44	50	56	62	68	74	80	86	92	98	104	110	116	122	128	134	140	146	152	158	164	170	176	182	188	
Hong Kong	26	32	38	44	50	56	62	68	74	80	86	92	98	104	110	116	122	128	134	140	146	152	158	164	170	176	182	188	194	200	
Isle of Man	10	16	22	28	34	40	46	52	58	64	70	76	82	88	94	100	106	112	118	124	130	136	142	148	154	160	166	172	178	184	
Jakarta	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	198	
Johannesburg	19	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97	103	109	115	121	127	133	139	145	151	157	163	169	175	181	187	193	
Kuala Lumpur	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	198	
London	17	23	29	35	41	47	53	59	65	71	77	83	89	95	101	107	113	119	125	131	137	143	149	155	161	167	173	179	185	191	
Madrid	17	23	29	35	41	47	53	59	65	71	77	83	89	95	101	107	113	119	125	131	137	143	149	155	161	167	173	179	185	191	
Moscow	17	23	29	35	41	47	53	59	65	71	77	83	89	95	101	107	113	119	125	131	137	143	149	155	161	167	173	179	185	191	
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Paris	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	
Perth	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	198	
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BUSINESS

MONDAY OCTOBER 29 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Weinstock attacks ministers on pay

LORD WEINSTOCK, managing director of General Electric, has joined industrialists who score exhortations by Treasury ministers and Michael Howard, the employment secretary, for employers to help curb inflation and preserve jobs.

Lord Weinstock said on the Channel 4 programme, *Answering Back*: "This is the real world, in which the government says we must rely on market forces to fix prices. This also applies to the price of labour."

"We are short of several types of skills and we must pay whatever is the price to retain them and to recruit them."

"In some cases we will pay not just what the present going rate of increase is, but sometimes a good deal more."

Fosco boost from Tunnel

THE imminent Channel tunnel breakthrough could not have been better timed for Fosco, the specialist chemicals group, which has secured a £237 million bid from Burnham.

The defence document is likely to point to two Fosco products used extensively in the construction of the tunnel as evidence of the company's ability to solve customer's problems with its advanced technical expertise.

The Fosco camp will point to Burnham's product-led strategy, and argue it could not be effectively applied to Fosco's technological approach. Burnham still has two weeks to come up with its offer document.

Anger over Gas 'green' pricing

COUNTY councils and small firms face up to 20 per cent higher gas bills after a "green" pricing plan announced by British Gas last month.

The pricing was designed to prevent consumers, wastefully burning gas to push demand levels into a lower price bracket. British Gas said at the time that, although the structure would mean higher bills for some consumers, overall company revenue would not change.

But Ian Powe, Gas Consumer Council director, says smaller contract consumers "do not accept the environmental threat was sufficient to merit the financial consequences to them."

Spurs extra time

ROBERT Maxwell has confirmed that he has deferred repayment of the £1.1 million loan, granted to Tottenham Hotspur through his chairman, Irving Scholar, that was used to pay for the transfer of Gary Lineker from Barcelona.

The loan, granted on August 1, was due for repayment today. The company, shares in which were suspended ten days ago, is due this week to give further details of its financial position.

Coal increase

British Coal has increased domestic coal prices to coal merchants by an average of 6.3 per cent from today. Smokeless fuels will rise by 4.3 to 8.1 per cent from Thursday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.9555 (-0.0080)
W German mark 2.9606 (+0.0101)
Exchange index 94.8 (+0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1598.4 (-23.1)
FT-SE 100 2063.1 (-25.9)
New York Dow Jones 2436.14 (-84.65)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 25005.64 (+524.15)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.10	2.10
Belgium F	21.70	21.70
Canada \$	2.38	2.38
Denmark Kr	11.78	11.78
Finland Mark	10.30	10.30
France F	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.36	2.36
Greece Dr	205.00	205.00
Hong Kong \$	15.50	15.50
Italy Lira	2.10	2.10
Japan Yen	162.50	162.50
Netherlands Gld	11.78	11.78
Norway Kr	22.00	22.00
Portugal Esc	200.00	200.00
South Africa Rand	12.00	12.00
Spain Ptas	166.00	166.00
Sweden Kr	11.39	11.39
Switzerland Sfr	2.20	2.20
Taiwan New	2.20	2.20
USA \$	1.95	1.95
Yugoslavia Din	27.00	27.00

Rates for small denominations only as published by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 120.3 (September)

Polly Peck administrators expect DTI meeting today

By MATTHEW BOND

THE administrators at Polly Peck International are expected to meet trade and industry department officials today to discuss whether an official enquiry is needed into the affairs of the group.

Last week, amid growing calls for a DTI enquiry into the collapse of Polly Peck, Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said he was looking forward to meeting the administrators "at the earliest possible opportunity". That opportunity will come today, Richard Stone, one of the three administrators appointed by the High Court last week, said yesterday. Despite the

early meeting, Mr Stone believes the administrators will require more time before they are able to assess whether, in the words of last week's DTI statement, "there are serious questions under investigation, which require the services of the secretary of state's powers under the Companies Act".

An enquiry would be welcomed by Asil Nadir, Polly Peck chairman, who asked for inspectors to be appointed in September.

Mr Stone and Michael Jordan, his Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte colleague, are not expected to fly to northern Cyprus, the heart of the Polly Peck empire, until the middle or end of this week. But when they do finally go they are likely to be

accompanied by Mr Nadir. "I think we have to recognise that Mr Nadir has close links to the governments of both countries. If he wished to come with us we would be very happy to have him along."

Having spoken to Mr Nadir over the weekend, Mr Stone thought it quite likely that Mr Nadir would accompany the administrators.

Mr Stone is convinced that the success of the administration is dependent on successful negotiations in Turkey and in northern Cyprus.

On Friday, Nazif Borman, northern Cyprus finance minister, issued a warning that his government would intervene immediately if Polly Peck's assets were

threatened by the administration. Mr Stone's response is diplomatic.

"We fully recognise that the government's concerns are for the people employed on the island. But I think it would be unfortunate if anyone takes up a position without taking the opportunity of talking to us."

The administrators are hoping that a more conciliatory and constructive line could lead to the injunction granted by a northern Cypriot court being lifted. The injunction, obtained by local citrus growers, has blocked access to £140 million of Polly Peck bank deposits held on the island and to Polly Peck businesses. Its impact

even spread to Meyna, the Turkish food distribution subsidiary where two of the company's directors were residents of northern Cyprus and felt themselves bound by the terms of the injunction.

Mr Stone confirmed that the administrators had received a number of approaches for Polly Peck's Russell Hobbs electrical appliance subsidiary which is thought to be worth about £25 million. These are believed to include a management buyout team led by Edward Cory, managing director. The money raised from Russell Hobbs would more than cover the £15 million the administrators estimate is required to keep the company going until Christmas.

Board in new threat over NatPower debt

By MARTIN WALLER AND JONATHAN PRYNN

THE government is facing a potentially embarrassing row with National Power over the levels of debt it is insisting the bigger of the country's two main electricity generators carries before its privatisation in February.

Potential City investors had been led to believe that the long-running dispute between the energy department and the company had been settled last month, when National Power was reported to have accepted £450 million of debt.

Its board had long resisted the injection of heavy debt, but was thought to have given in when the smaller PowerGen agreed to take on borrowings of £270 million in the wake of the putative bid from Hanson.

However, a strong element on National Power's board is staging a last-ditch attempt to reduce the borrowings forced on it before flotation.

High borrowings would, it is argued, severely hamper National Power's ability to fund the necessary investment to operate in the electricity market and comply with tougher European Community anti-pollution regulations.

The board believes that the company's earnings would be unduly vulnerable to a cyclical downturn in demand or other trading risks with such heavy borrowings.

A significant minority is thought to be considering insisting on inserting such a specific warning in the eventual prospectus to the issue, or even using the ultimate sanc-

tion of refusing to sign the document entirely.

Such a rebellion would be unprecedented in government asset sales. While the directors involved could be sacked by John Wakeham, the energy secretary, the resulting publicity would be damaging to the float.

A public squabble over the industry's ability to survive the next decade with the structure set up in April could also cloud the £4.7 billion flotation of the 12 regional distributors, for which a pathfinder prospectus will be issued on Friday.

Preliminary work on drawing up the prospectus for the two generators, which are to be sold as a single package, is now being carried out by the energy department and its advisers in conjunction with the two companies.

Stock market analysts believe that the generators represent a far riskier proposition for the investors than the distributors, which are seen as stable utilities with assured earnings flows.

Analysts are also uneasy over the levels of debt the government has injected into the generating side, given the difficulty of assessing future capital investment needs, and some believe these may have to be reassessed.

"The government is going to have such a difficult time selling it, because they haven't done the marketing properly," said one independent stockbroker. "I don't think things are set in tablets of stone."

The lower credit standing of the generators was underlined

when National Power had to concede much higher margins and fees to banks than the distribution companies when it appointed Barclays and Manufacturers Hanover last week to arrange the underwriting for a five-year £1.5 billion loan. This will carry an initial margin of 37.5 basis points and an initial commitment fee of 18.75 basis points.

This has sparked a war of words with PowerGen, which claimed it was on the brink of arranging a more advantageous deal through Midland and Warburg. But National Power claimed PowerGen had gone back on a gentleman's agreement for a joint approach to banks in the face of a weakening loan market.

But Duncan Clegg, a director of Lazard's, the NatPower adviser, said PowerGen's original pricing had been unrealistic and that even the terms which National Power hopes to underwrite this week were turned down by several banks.

National Power has set out an expensive and wide-ranging capital spending programme for its first few years as a quoted company. It inherited £700 million of work fitting flue gas desulphurisation equipment to its Drax station as part of the need to reduce pollution to levels acceptable to the EC.

Similar reasons have prompted a more recent decision to switch to gas-fired plants, with plans to build a total capacity of up to 5,000 megawatts costing £1.1 billion while closing six old coal plants totalling 1,900mw by the end of the century.

'Dramatic' fall in business

By ROSS TIEHAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOBS are being lost in the service sector in London in response to "a dramatic and sharp fall in the level of domestic business" says the London Chamber of Commerce.

The capital has lost about 5 per cent of its service sector jobs in just three months, says the chamber in its quarterly survey of economic trends, published today.

It is the first time job losses have been recorded since the survey was first conducted in 1985.

About 36 per cent of the companies questioned during September reported a fall in their domestic business.

Small- and medium-sized

businesses are especially hard hit. Overall, 28 per cent of companies that took part in the survey said they had cut the number of staff that they employed.

Although men were the first to bear the brunt of the cutbacks, the chamber says women are now being affected too. Job losses are set to accelerate, it says.

The companies in the survey also say they have scaled down their investment plans for the coming 12 months in response to high borrowing costs.

According to the chamber, "a continued deterioration in the domestic economy and the persistence of high inflation

and interest rates has had a dampening effect on the confidence of London's business community, with the general mood being considerably more gloomy in the third quarter".

The survey, conducted before the one percentage point cut in bank base rates, to 14 per cent, this month, showed the cost of money is the most serious worry for 74 per cent of companies.

The chamber adds: "It is unlikely that the reduction will have a significant impact on alleviating the current financial burden on firms." It also expresses concern about the level of the uniform business rate.

Visualising a listing for Eidos

JAMES GRA



Image maker: Stephen Streater will step from London University to the unlisted securities market next month to launch an innovative computer video-editing system that stemmed from studies on artificial intelligence and image recognition that he is hoping to complete for a PhD degree. Mr Streater, aged 24, is technical director of Eidos, a company formed to exploit Edit One, which he helped develop. Smaller companies, page 26

Brent to reveal bond issue details

BRENT Walker, the highly borrowed leisure group, is expected to publish today the long-awaited listing particulars for its £103 million convertible bond issue.

Publication will be seen as a victory for George Walker, chairman, and the Bank of England, which intervened on Friday to ensure there was no immediate repeat of the collapse of Polly Peck International. The listing particulars had originally been expected on October 6.

On Friday, Brent Walker's shares collapsed amid speculation that the bond issue would have to be pulled because of bank nervousness in the wake of the demise of Polly Peck. Brent Walker has net debt of £1.15 billion, compared with a stock market value of £23 million.

At one point Brent Walker shares fell to 18.5p, before recovering to 45p, down 27p on the day. Despite the fall in the share price, the bond's conversion price is still expected to be 140p.

The listing particulars will include details of the restructuring of about £240 million of medium-term debt. The loan, associated with the purchase of Ellerman Holdings in 1988, is to be repaid by Barclays ahead of schedule. It will be then be refinanced by a consortium of banks led by Hill Samuel.

TSB joins Italian venture

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE TSB Group has decided to export the joys of life assurance to the Italians. It has taken a 20 per cent stake in a joint venture to sell financial services through Cariplo, the largest savings bank in the world.

The bank has teamed up with Cariplo and Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance, the state-owned French life insurer, to form Carivita, to sell savings plans through Cariplo's 370 branches.

TSB has invested a first tranche of 200 million lire (£900,000) for a 20 per cent stake in the company and has committed another £400 mil-

lion to the project. Cariplo is taking 60 per cent of the shares while CNP has the remaining 20 per cent.

Carivita is waiting for approval to start operating from Isvap, the Italian insurance regulatory body, and expects to be selling life assurance by next summer.

Cesa Bianchi from Milano Assicurazione, a rival life assurance company, has been appointed managing director.

The new company became possible after the Amato law was passed in May which opened the way for banks to sell life assurance. Now there is a race among Italy's retail

banks to exploit the country's under-developed financial services market.

Cariplo, with savers' deposits of £37 billion, controls 11 per cent of the Italian banking market and is particularly strong in wealthy Lombardy.

Cariplo approached the TSB Trust Company for help in the new venture due to its success in selling financial services via its own branches.

TSB Trust Company's life assurance salesmen complete an average of 30 policies a month compared with the British average of between six and eight. In Italy, the rate is fewer than two a month.

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Developers back rival Tube link

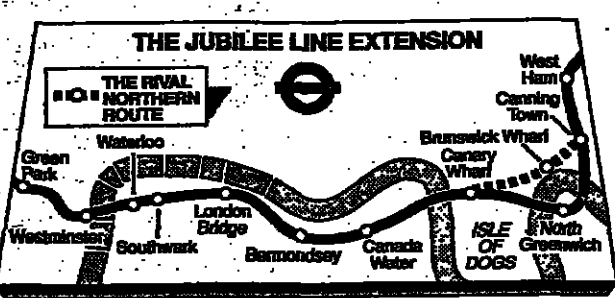
By OUR CITY STAFF

A FRESH dispute is expected to break out this week over the route of the extension to the Jubilee line, the £1 billion Tube line that is planned to link the West End with the emerging commercial centre in London's Docklands.

The argument is about where the line will go after it reaches Canary Wharf, the ten million-sq-ft office complex being built by Olympia & York, a Canadian developer.

"Does it stay north of the river and run through the Brunswick Wharf and Leamouth area or does it cross to the south of the Thames to link with the Port Greenwich project that British Gas plans for a 200-acre site on the Blackwall Peninsula?"

Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, appeared to have settled the argument in February, when he unexpectedly reversed his original decision and ruled that the Tube line would follow the southern route: British Gas and British



Urban Development, its development partner, were to contribute £25 million towards the cost of the line.

Now three rival property development companies have teamed up with pioneer occupiers on the north bank to form the Leamouth Group. The group intends to petition Parliament to have the original route restored.

Rochau-Stanhope Developments and two Swedish developers, London & Edinburgh Trust and NCC Property, are the property companies behind this last ditch attempt to persuade Par-

liament that north is best. The occupiers include Reuters news agency, the Financial Times and Telehouse. At a previous round of negotiations R-SD and NCC pledged about £31 million towards the building of a new station at Brunswick Wharf.

The private bill that will enable the project to go-ahead had its second reading last week. The Leamouth Group hopes to encourage more support for the northern route. The bill as it stands actually still contains the original northern alignment. Mr Parkinson's change is contained in

an additional provision. The Leamouth Group's argument is expected to centre on two issues.

First, that the northern route is shorter, cheaper and easier to construct and that the money being contributed by the developers of Port Greenwich in now way compensates for the cost of tunnelling under the Thames twice.

Second, about one million sq ft of office space is built or being built on the northern bank. At Port Greenwich, British Gas and BUD have only recently submitted an outline planning application. In the current uncertainty of the commercial property market, the Leamouth Group believes the line should service completed projects and those under construction.

Last week the government announced its agreement in principle to the building of two stations at Southwark and Bermondsey, despite the lack of private sector funds to back their construction.

Now LBS forecasts recession this year

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE stronger pound and high interest rates will produce a recession in the second half, though annual gross domestic product will still show 1.5 per cent growth in 1989, the London Business School forecasts in its latest *Economic Outlook*.

Assuming the government will avoid downward realignments with the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system, LBS expects base rates to be cut to 12 per cent by the middle of next year. But, given the need to maintain sufficient rate differential to Germany, no further interest rate cuts are considered possible until 1994.

European ERM entry with 6 per cent fluctuation bands is seen allowing annual retail-price inflation to come down to the European average of 3 per cent by the mid-1990s. But this will entail rising unemployment and lower output. Output measure GDP growth is expected to slow to 1.4 per cent next year and stay at about 2 per cent until 1994.

The retail price index decelerates to an annual 7.1 per cent next year (9.5 per cent this year), dropping steadily to 3.1 per cent in four years' time. LBS assumes an oil price of \$25 per barrel by mid-1991.

As wage costs continue to rise, companies will pare back their workforces, pushing adult unemployment to 1.8 million next year and, in 1992, to 2 million, where it will remain stuck until 1994.

Japan warns over copying its style of management

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH businessmen should be wary of slavishly following Japanese management practice in an effort to improve the fortunes of their companies, said Mr Kazuo Chiba, the Japanese ambassador to Britain.

Describing the British preoccupation with "just-in-time" techniques and "quality circles" as a "fad", Mr Chiba says many Japanese management ideas evolved simply from wartime difficulties.

Mr Chiba's views contrast sharply with those of Peter Lilley, the trade secretary. Last week, during a speech to Midlands businessmen at the Metropole Hotel at Birmingham National Exhibition Centre, he urged British managers to learn all they could from Japanese techniques.

But in an interview with *Director*, the magazine of the Institute of Directors, to be published this week, Mr Chiba takes a very different line.

"Before the war, Japanese management was more European in style," he says. "In wartime there were fewer differentials in industry because many people were amateurs. Terrible products were made too; many people said more Japanese were killed in planes

made by the Japanese than by the Americans, though I think that's a bit of a caricature."

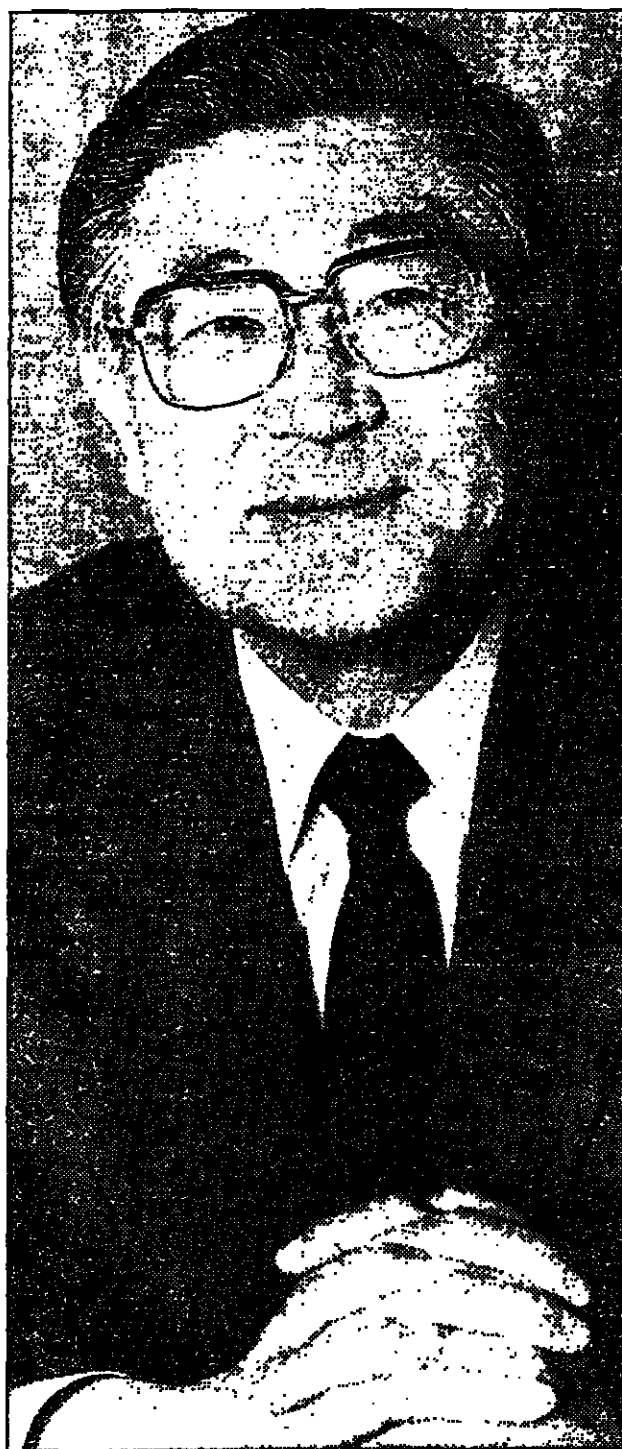
Uniforms for workers and shared dining facilities for manual and managerial workers, almost universal in Japan, have been transposed to Britain by Japanese companies.

But they too date from the war years. Mr Chiba says they arose in response to the need to increase output rapidly, coupled to severe shortages (of cloth, among other things) which brought in a more utilitarian style for all.

Mr Chiba, aged 65, sees Japanese society moving more towards the European model. Japanese management is not so shy of perks and privileges as its overseas style suggests, he says.

Japanese companies often provide holiday facilities for their managers and workers. But "You don't find common dining rooms or toilets there," he says.

"I think our civilisation will come to resemble yours more as time goes by. The government itself is encouraging people to take leave and companies are responding. It's really a by-product of more efficiency."



Echoes of war: Kazuo Chiba, Japanese ambassador

Eurotunnel rights may be offered at 400p

By OUR CITY STAFF

Eurotunnel is hoping to have its £330 million rights issues underwritten at between 350p and 400p a share after the recovery in the price of Eurotunnel units from 388p at the start of October to 480p last week.

A further round of travel perks attached to the new shares will be unveiled on Wednesday, after the expected link-up of the British and French ends of the tunnel.

Since the perks will only be available to private shareholders, a dual market is expected to develop with rights to small parcels of shares carrying a premium. Anyone can be nominated as a beneficiary of the concessions, in contrast to the original issue, but they will not be transferable after the shares are issued.

Despite Eurotunnel's attempts to launch its capital raising ahead of the electricity privatisation, both offers are likely to compete for private investors' cheques, since the electricity offer is scheduled to be open from November 21.

The prospectus is expected to confirm that Eurotunnel hopes to pay no more than £7.7 billion for the completed tunnel as cost overruns have now stabilised. On existing traffic projections, the project would then show an overall return over its life of 14.6 per cent, though cross-Channel traffic has grown faster than expected. The number of passengers crossing the Channel reached the original 1993 target of 64 million last year.

Bond enthusiasm vital to success of funding drive

Since the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) reappeared this year, the gilt-edged market has been waiting in trepidation for the authorities to return to market as sellers of stock.

The general view seems to be that on the day the Bank of England declares its presence in the sterling bond market, gilt yields will back up 50 basis points or more. With the cumulative PSBR in the first half of the 1990-1 financial year already above £5 billion, the nervous tension is growing.

It should be remembered that the important number for the authorities when they decide their funding policy is not the PSBR to date or even the market consensus on the likely requirement for the full financial year.

The key figure is the Treasury's forecast for public sector net debt repayments (PSDR) of almost £7 billion this financial year. There is no pressure from that number for the authorities to resume funding.

The forecast for public sector net debt repayments, however, is due to be revised with the Treasury's autumn statement. This should carry more weight with the gilt market than all the PSBR data published so far this year.

There will probably be some reduction in the PSDR estimate to take account of public sector cost overruns and the greater than expected impact of a weak economy on public revenues and expenditure.

The Treasury will still be able to make a case for expecting the seasonal surge in revenues in the March quarter. Receipts are likely to be loaded even more towards the latter months of the financial year than usual, because of delays in the collection of poll tax.

There will doubtless be more pessimistic market forecasts of the public sector's financial position than those presented by the Treasury but these will have no bearing on the timing of official funding moves.

Whatever the timing of the next funding move — may guess would be March 1991 after the Budget forecast and, perhaps more to the point, after the electricity privatisation — the gilt market's supply drought is set to end. The initial reaction will

push yields higher but it may not follow that yields are permanently raised.

At first sight, the borrowing requirements that seem to stretch far into the 1990s present an insuperable test to the market's absorptive powers.

During the 1980s, sterling fixed coupon bonds were shunned by British institutional investors and enjoyed only a fabled favour for foreigners. British pension funds, in aggregate, have run down their holdings of sterling bonds to less than 10 per cent of their total portfolios, with some funds daring to go to zero weighting. Sterling bonds have been scarcely more popular with insurance companies.

Learned treatises have argued that the well managed fund should have no bond exposure at all but should be 100 per cent committed to equity-type investments. Such views have brought no widening of the gilt/equity yield spread because there has been no fresh supply of gilts for the institutions to buy, even had they been inclined to add to their holdings.

The position in the sterling markets contracts with that abroad. On the Continent, fund managers still typically hold large amounts of bonds in their portfolios. The bonds are in copious supply from the deficit financing of governments as well as from company issues.

British theorists, arguing that portfolios should not hold bonds, have lacked persuasive power over these investors, if they received a hearing at all.

Even in America, where fund managers have traditionally been less committed to bonds than their British counterparts, bond investment has held up better than in Britain. America has seen a flood of bond issues in recent years.

The conclusion seems to be that investment habits depend to a large extent on what securities are available for investors to buy. If this is so, a resumption of government funding should be accompanied by a flowering of arguments in favour of investment in sterling bonds, at the right price. There will be no shortage of those with a vested interest in the health of the gilt market to fashion those arguments.

STEPHEN LEWIS
Fifth Horseman Publications

EC NOTEBOOK

Customer could always be right under consumer plans

MOST professionals could have to prove they are not to blame for poor service if they wish to fend off customers' demands for damages, according to fresh rules proposed by the European Commission.

Lawyers, doctors and building contractors, whose errors can generate huge damage claims, will be exempted for the present. Karel van Miert, European commissioner for consumer affairs, has unveiled plans in Strasbourg, which he said would reverse the burden of proof in favour of the consumer. "Once damage has been done, and a causal link established between the damage and the service supplied, it is for the service supplier to prove there is no fault at his level," he said. "The new liability rules would only cover claims for physical damages."

Anxious to quell fears that the service sector could be snowed under with law suits, as in America, Mr van Miert said that the commission's plan took account of America's mistakes.

● FRANCE and the commission are close to resolving their dispute over Air France's near-monopoly of the French market, according to EC officials. Paris and Brussels may be about to stitch up a deal in which Air France's takeover of UTA, the independent carrier, is declared legal, while Air France guarantees access for certain other airlines to fly in and out of France. The buy-out also gives Air France effective control of another competitor, Air Inter, through a complex network of cross-shareholdings, raising fears in

Brussels that it could strangle competition. The French reply that Germany is still competitive despite the domination of Lufthansa.

As a concession from the French, two companies have been given the right to run long-haul charter flights out of Paris. After talks between Paris and Brussels at the weekend, Sir Leon Brittan may announce the deal tomorrow.

● IN AN attempt to whip recalcitrant governments into line, Sir Leon has told European insurance firms to sell their fire, motor, health and other "non-life" policies abroad as though protectionist barriers to free trade in insurance no longer existed. All but Britain, France, the Netherlands and Denmark had failed to pass laws opening up their markets to foreign competition, although all 12 governments had approved the EC measures, he said. He has already opened infringement proceedings against several for not implementing insurance directives on time.

Sir Leon told European insurance underwriters in a speech in Lisbon that they had his blessing to draft insurance contracts for policy-holders in countries that had still failed to implement the laws.

● EUROPEAN Community veterinary experts have unanimously condemned the health standards of American slaughterhouses for pork and beef, raising the spectre of a miniature trade war alongside the far greater transatlantic dispute over the future of farm subsidies. Eight of the nine American abattoirs selling pork to the community will be

forbidden to do so as of November 1. Likewise, nine beef slaughterhouses have until the end of the year to meet EC standards or they could face the same treatment.

To the Americans it is pedantic behaviour. The community is not saying American pork or beef are unfit for European stomachs, but that Americans monitor the slaughtering process differently. Washington may choose not to complain over the loss of \$1 million of pork exports a year (though the figures could be far higher for beef). But it adds to the list of unresolved trade disputes that are straining relations between the community and America, enhancing the need for a more comprehensive way of settling disputes between the two blocs.

● JAPAN and the EC are still trading insults over each other's protectionism, despite general relief in Brussels that the Japanese market may be opening up to imports. On a visit to Tokyo, Horst Krenzler, the EC's director general for foreign trade, gave warning that failure to remove import barriers more hastily could hurt Japan's car exports to Europe. In return, the Japanese reiterated their dislike of the EC's anti-dumping laws. Herr Krenzler called for an end to tariffs on fish, processed food and leather products, but Japan is loath to open up the leather trade, as the "underclass" of workers who dominate it would never find jobs elsewhere, officials say.

PETER GUILFORD
Brussels

CAPITAL MARKETS

Polly Peck debacle could be salvation of the sector

IT IS a measure of the credit worthiness of corporate UK during most of the Eighties that it has taken until now for a default to occur in the sterling commercial paper market. It was worth waiting for. Few could have expected such spectacular and unexpected circumstances when the inevitable first default came, as it did last week in the guise of Polly Peck.

Unlike previous UK corporate failures, the company had substantial amounts of paper outstanding — more than £40 million — when the day of reckoning arrived. In the case of, say, Coliort, the end was a longer time coming and the company had been unable to issue paper for many weeks before the receivers moved in.

With Polly Peck, the suddenness of the collapse meant its debts were not worth the commercial paper they were written on in a matter of days. The Polly Peck affair is undoubtedly a setback for sterling commercial paper, and for the market's detractors, confirms long held fears. As one put it: "Commercial paper is meant to be a

substitute for putting money on deposit with a bank. Some of the smaller companies involved just are not capital market borrowers."

Those banks that have stuck it out and are still active in sterling commercial paper insist that Polly Peck's demise will act as the catalyst for the development of a smaller but higher quality market. Unrated issuers, which for months have been struggling to dispose of paper, will now find it all but impossible to find takers. Dealers claim they can still find buyers for high quality, prime rated issues, though spreads have moved out across the board. As dealers point out, recouping their money is far more important to commercial paper investors than gaining another five basis points by buying a lesser credit.

Fortunately for the market, Polly Peck had no short term rating, so its demise did not compromise the value of short term ratings in the eyes of investors. However, its former status as a FT-SE 100 company would have acted as a proxy credit rating for many. For all but the very biggest un-

rated names, the security that was once afforded by equity valuation alone must now be considered worthless. As in the American market in the early Eighties, the medium term effect of the default will be to transform sterling commercial paper to an all-rated market.

Although the levels of outstandings are likely to dip sharply this month and next, in the long run, the Polly Peck debacle may prove the salvation rather than the damnation of the market. A smaller, higher quality group of rated issuers will command more respect, particularly from overseas investors. It will also end the widespread practice of dealer banks taking paper on their own books at the request of issuers in the often forlorn hope of finding a home for it at a later stage.

Dealers, in future, will act much more like the intermediaries they are supposed to be, finding buyers for paper at realistic prices. The market is entering a more mature phase of its development and has Asil Nadir to thank for it.

JONATHAN PRYNN

Australian rates cut 'should wait'

Sydney AUSTRALIA is unlikely to make an economic recovery until the second half of 1991 and should wait some time before further lowering interest rates, said Bernie Fraser, the governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Asked by *The Australian* newspaper if there should be a gap of several months before a cut in official interest rates, he said: "We obviously have to wait some time." A 1 per cent reduction to 13 per cent on October 15 was the fifth in 1990.

Mr Fraser said economic recovery would probably be later than the first half of calendar 1991 envisaged in the budget for the fiscal year to end-June 1991.

Reuters

Germany sells 200 state firms

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY has already sold off 200 of the former 8,000 East German state-owned companies for DM1 billion (£337 million), and another 300 companies will follow by the end of the year, according to Detlev Rohwedder, chairman of the *Treuhandanstalt*, the trustee agency in charge of privatisation.

In an interview with *Bild*, the German tabloid newspaper, published at the weekend, Herr Rohwedder said: "About DM1 billion has been raised and another DM1.5 billion is within sight."

He said the French showed the keenest interest among

foreign companies. The agency has also been in talks with 50 large American firms.

However, he admitted that there were difficulties in selling some of the larger enterprises. "Big companies that cannot be privatised will remain as a heritage of East Germany under federal ownership for 20 years or longer," he said.

Herr Rohwedder said the economic situation will worsen in eastern Germany during the winter. "Next summer things will improve strongly provided that the world economy does not slacken," he said.

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Marks' sparks to light up shop gloom

MARKS and Spencer, Britain's largest and seemingly most resilient retailer, should reveal a solid performance despite the gloom hanging over the retail sector.

The market will be looking for guidance on the state of the high street when M&S, which is headed by Lord Rayner, the outgoing chairman, and Richard Greenbury, the chief executive, reports its half-year figures on Wednesday.

The group should see a solid performance from the British side, despite big wage increases announced in the spring, helped by continued benefits from investments in Epos and information technology which should result in improved margins.

Progress at the North American operations is likely to have been difficult, although Europe should show a reasonable advance.

Ian Macdougall, at Nomura Research, forecasts pre-tax profits of £229 million, against £210 million last year. Market forecasts range from £221 million to £235 million.

TODAY

Interviews: Black & Leisure Group, Channel Tunnel Investments, Landis Holdings. Finance: Lowland Investment Co, Standard Properties. Economics: London sterling certificates of deposit (September), bill turnover statistics (September), sterling commercial paper (September), monetary statistics (September), provisional analysis of bank lending for house purchase (third quarter).

TOMORROW

Trading is thought to have been difficult at Henry Barrett Group, the acquisitive steel and industrial products company. Margins will have come under pressure at operations exposed to the construction industry, although specialist products should have held up well.

Gillian Heald, at Allied Provincial, expects full-year pre-tax profits to advance from £10.2 million to about £15 million, largely due to acquisitions, while earnings per share are expected to rise from 22.3p to 23.3p. Market forecasts range from £14.5 million to £17.5 million.

Thames Water, the biggest of the privatised water companies, will start the reporting



Margins are expected to be fatter at Marks: Rayner, left, and Greenbury.

season for the water stocks. Lakis Athanasiou, at UBS Phillips & Drew, has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of £110 million, against a previous pro forma figure of £87.6 million. Market forecasts range from £100 million to £120 million.

Last year, Thames surprised the market by paying a dividend 3.6 per cent above the prospectus forecast. This year, a dividend of about 5.7p is thought likely, which would be up 13 per cent.

A strong development programme will boost sales at William Low, the Scottish supermarket chain headed by Christopher Blake, chairman, and James Miller, managing director. The group will benefit from strong earnings growth and improved margins.

The aborted deal to buy the Gateway stores is likely to result in an extraordinary charge, although this should be below £1 million, against last year's £2.7 million charge for the aborted deal with Budgets.

Julian Hardwick at Barclays de Zoete Wold expects final pre-tax profits to rise from

£17.7 million to £21.2 million. Interviews: Drayton English & International Trust, East Devonshire Mines, Futura Holdings, Jackson Group, Powerscreen International, Thames Water.

Finance: Anglo-Park Group, Barrett (Henry) Group, Gannex, Low (Wm), Economic statistics: G8 industrial trends survey (October), new vehicle registrations (September).

WEDNESDAY

Solid trading should help JH Fennell, the power transmission and conveyor belts group. The group will benefit from its overseas operations, which account for more than half of turnover and make it less vulnerable to a margins squeeze.

Chris Avery at Smith New Court is looking for full-year pre-tax profits of £16 million, against £13.3 million, with earnings a share expected to climb from 20.3p to 21.3p.

With other publishers, Reed International, headed by Peter Davis, is not having an easy time.

A subdued advertising market and adverse exchange rates will take their toll on first-half profits. Reed receives about 40 per cent of its revenue from America and the pound/dollar rate will not have helped.



Net assets should be up: Lipton



Heavy interest payments: Davis

Court is looking for final pre-tax profits of £18 million, against £15.6 million.

Robert Miller-Bakewell, at County NatWest WoodMac, expects Leigh Interests, the West Midlands waste disposal group, to announce pre-tax profits of at least £6.7 million for the half-year, against £3.5 million. This is in line with Leigh's forecast at the time of the agreed bid for HT Hughes, the USM waste disposal group.

Analysts are waiting for information on how quickly Leigh is going to integrate the Hughes operation and on the savings which will arise. Further news is also awaited on planning applications.

Interviews: BDA Holdings, Burtonwood Brewery, Leigh Interests, Monarch Resources, Westbury. Finance: Datsi Simpson Group, Kalamazoo, MMT Computing, Smart (J & Co Contractors), Stanhope Properties.

FRIDAY

Interviews: Anglo American Coal, Corns, London & Edinburgh Trust, Provint, Upton & Southern Holdings. Economic statistics: UK official reserves (October), housing starts and completions (September).

PHILIP PANGALOS

The world savings glut

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

As Eastern Europe freed itself last year, economists around the world immediately tried to find a cloud behind the silver lining. A worldwide shortage of savings was soon diagnosed as one of the "great problems" of our time, perhaps second only to global warming. But apart from the acres of forests felled to print the warnings about this all-embracing disaster, the evidence of a savings shortage has been elusive.

Collapsing economies in Eastern Europe have not proved enticing to international investors, while the cutbacks in capital spending by the governments of these countries have far outweighed their symbolic gestures towards new infrastructural and environmental programmes.

As for the extra DM70 billion to DM90 billion a year that the German government is likely to borrow for reunification, this seems less catastrophic when expressed as \$50 billion. If this extra borrowing were really the cause of a worldwide savings shortage, we could all relax: the \$40 billion cut in the prospective

American budget deficit negotiated in Washington would solve the problem at a stroke.

In fact, we can probably relax anyway. For shifts in the German and American budget deficits are already being overwhelmed by changes in the savings and investment behaviour of the private sector. And putting all these behavioural changes together, the outcome seems less likely to be a world savings shortage than a world savings glut.

The end of the junk bond and leveraged buyout craze alone could more than compensate for the entire cost of German unification. Add in the collapse of the Japanese, American and British real-estate investment, to say nothing of the fading of the pre-1992 investment boom in Western Europe, and you will have enough surplus savings to pay Eastern European reconstruction for most of the decade. Where, then, do market

pundits continue to find their evidence of a world savings shortage? The answer, of course, is in the level of real interest rates. These have risen tremendously in Germany and Japan in the last two years, roughly doubling in both countries to more than 5 per cent at the short end. Oddly enough, however, real interest rates have not risen at all in many other countries, including the two that have long been the great devourers of the world's surplus savings — Britain and the United States.

In fact, real interest rates in Britain are spectacularly lower than they were a year ago. Compared with 10.9 per cent inflation, real short-term rates in sterling have halved in a year to 3

per cent, while ten-year gilt-edged yields are down to ½ per cent in real terms. In America, the fall has been less sensational but still significant, whether one judges real rates by past or prospective rates of inflation.

In other words, the so-called "world" shortage of savings is actually confined to Japan, Germany and other "sound money" countries in continental Europe. Meanwhile the Anglo-Saxon spendthrifts remain flush with funds.

One explanation for this paradox has been mentioned already. Recessions decimate private investment and frighten spendthrift consumers into saving. In countries ravished by junk borrowing and lending, the

recession-induced swing is likely to be particularly sudden and extreme.

But there is an even more fundamental explanation. Years of government exchange-rate management have shown that inflation-prone currencies can often avoid being devalued in line with differences in past inflation. As a result, nominal interest rates, rather than real rates of return, have gradually converged around the world. In the long run, the inevitable result should be a steady convergence in world inflation levels as well. But there is a serious drawback to this process. In any fixed exchange-rate system, inflation and interest rates can converge up instead of down.

This seems to be precisely what investors in Germany and Japan are now afraid of. The European monetary system may be dominated by Germany at present, but who is to say that it will not be run in a few years' time by

Italians, Spaniards or even Britons? If there is a chance of this, then a ten-year bond yielding 9 per cent in marks must be compared not only with an Italian bond paying 13 per cent, but also with a long-term underlying inflation rate of 6 to 8 per cent in countries such as Italy, Spain and Britain.

The Japanese face a similar dilemma. For the past decade Japan's exchange-rate policy has been directed largely towards the political and economic needs of America. If this relationship continued in the next decade, then it would be easy to imagine Japanese inflation and interest rates converging towards the American rate.

Such suspicions may be unfounded. It may be that Germany and Japan will actually stick to low-inflation policies and let their monetary partners fall by the wayside if they cannot stand the strain. But investors will take a good deal of convincing. And until investors are convinced, puritanical countries will continue to pay higher real interest rates than the spendthrifts of the world.

INVESTORS who bought flats or houses at the top of the market in 1988 will feel some, if limited, sympathy, with the property companies similarly afflicted with the buying fever that year.

However, they may not feel inclined to support a company that spent at least £80 million on land in 1988 and has since had to write £12 million off the book value of its property portfolio and land bank. But in the case of Bryant Group, run by Christopher Bryant, which is asking its shareholders for £39 million cash through a rights issue to finance another land buying spree, they should do so.

There are good reasons why the rights are worth taking up. First, on an intuitive level, any company that sold against the cycle in 1988 would be looking pretty clever now. Few did so and few buyers are yet venturing out at what may prove the bottom of the market.

Second, as County NatWest has pointed out, every house-builder that wishes to remain in business will have to resume buying land sooner or later and probably before the end of next year. When they do, demand for land will quickly outstrip supply, yielding instant profits to Bryant.

Third, this is not a rescue rights issue. Bryant has a manageable 30 per cent geared balance sheet, but if £28 million of off-balance sheet borrowings are included, it has relatively little room for manoeuvre to finance further land purchases with debt.

Finally, at 77p, the new shares are being offered at a chunky discount to the company's estimated 95p a share net asset value. They are also underpinned by a 7.4 per cent yield and a commitment from the company to maintain the dividend this year. If you cannot sell your house but are looking for a way into an undervalued property market, take up the rights.

T Cowie

TOM Cowie watched as the recession of the early 1980s laid waste the industrial heartland of his Northeast stronghold. His car dealerships survived to tell the tale and he

Buy Bryant ready to reap land's harvest

TEMPUS



On the landwagon: Christopher Bryant, chairman

has no intention of succumbing to this downturn.

Cowie shares appear to tell another story. They touched a low of 32p this year and although they have rallied to 48p, they still trade well below a 1990 high of 90p. Last year they hit 152p. High interest rates turned market sentiment dramatically against the motor sector and T Cowie in particular.

The company is affected by depressed demand for new cars but it also carries excep-

tionally high levels of borrowing because of its interests in contract leasing through its finance division. Thus, effective gearing of 380 per cent compares with a sector average, excluding Cowie, of 58 per cent. Excluding the finance division, Cowie's gearing was a more acceptable 42 per cent at the half year.

Each 1 per cent cut in base rates adds £2.4 million a year to the bottom line. This year alone profits will benefit by about £500,000, although it

would be churlish to expect profits much above £10.5 million, against £16.1 million in 1989. But another percentage point off base rates next year, would underpin forecasts of £15 million before tax.

Investors should write off 1990 and look towards 1991. On present forecasts, the shares trade on a prospective multiple of just 5.2 and promise a yield of 12.8 per cent. Good value for a recovery stock.

ADT

ONE of the odder casualties of last Friday's bout of nervous speculation was the ADT share price. Scarcely a day appears to go by without talk that someone is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and on Friday the stories centred on Michael Ashcroft, chairman of ADT.

The reports, prompted by a Commons question, brought a fierce response from ADT, which denied any contact with the SFO, and asked the International Stock Exchange to launch an enquiry into share dealings before the setback in the price.

Mr Ashcroft grabbed the chance to state that ADT's core divisions were trading up to expectations and took advantage of the setback to mop up 4.5 million shares for the ADT account.

Market uneasiness will not have been helped by the somewhat strained relationship Mr Ashcroft still has with the City. Like Asil Nadir, of Polly Peck, he has often ploughed a lone furrow at the expense of cultivating powerful friends among the City establishment.

There, the similarity with PPI ends. ADT's businesses are anchored in successful operations in America and Britain. The group reported net cash of \$300 million in its half-year figures last month. Recession in America means ADT will not set the hills alight this year. Some forecasts have been downgraded, but prospective earnings of 27 cents leave the shares, at 108p, on a p/e ratio of under eight.

Like Mr Ashcroft, investors should take advantage of any weakness.

How the boss's integrity gap leads to a climate of distrust

MANY managers thrive on despatching punitive cost-cutting edicts to employees to use second class postage, off-peak telephone calls and second class rail travel. But does cost-cutting work? The hidden but horrible reality is that it does not.

Cost-cutting merely debilitates an already demoralised organisation. Highly-motivated people gradually despair as they find themselves constrained from achieving what they are paid to achieve.

Britain's bad bosses have yet to learn that continuous cost-cutting can only lead to failure. There is an alternative, found in successful companies like Mars and successful countries like Germany.

When we are being exhorted to cut costs on joining the ERM, why is it that Germany spends twice as much on training as does Britain?

And why is it that in every corner of Europe you can now find a Mars bar, whereas a few years ago you could find none? The secret of Mars' success is that it has always invested an inordinate amount of time, energy and resource in getting the management and people aspects of its business right.

Mars goes out of its way to ensure its people receive high pay in return for excellent performance. It goes out of its way to ensure that every employee (they call them "associates" of the business) has an opportunity to develop himself or herself through a learning development programme tailored to meet that person's needs.

Mars believes in investing in top-rate people and in excellent management. The company is successful and its products can be found throughout Europe. Yet in Munich a week ago, I asked

British industry is again paring costs to cope with short-term pressures. Consultant David Freemantle says this is the wrong approach



for some British mineral water. None was to be had. French and German mineral water was available. But at Pizza Hut restaurants in Britain, you will drink Swedish mineral water, in other British restaurants you might drink French, Italian, German and, occasionally, British mineral water.

Recently-privatised water companies, and many other British companies, have a lot

'Too many British companies merely pay lip service to critical aspects of their business such as training and customer service'

to learn from companies like Mars and others that operate in Germany.

The lesson is about investing in people and systems, about investing in product and customer service.

When you pay your people well and provide them with opportunities to grow and develop (through the provision of real decision-making accountability as well as training) then you will find that your organisation thrives.

Too many British companies merely pay lip service

business, such as training and customer service. The hidden reality of British management practice is that a large majority of their customers still have to suffer bad service.

One of my clients in Germany mentioned that when he moved house in Munich the telephone company sent him a card saying its engineer would arrive between 9.45 am and 10.15 am to install the telephone. The engineer arrived

at 10.00 am.

When road-works were to take place outside his new home, the foreman of the road gang visited each house in the neighbourhood the night before to brief residents on the schedule for the road-work.

Few British companies match the service levels attained in Germany. You only have to compare the service provided by BMW to its customers in Britain with that of some of its rivals.

The horrible reality of British management is that it is

to critical aspects of their full of the latest ideas, gimmicks and fashions about good management but consistently fails to them into practice in anything other than a superficial "flavour of the month" basis.

The gaps between what British managers frequently say as opposed to what they do — I call them integrity gaps — leads to an employee climate of distrust, cynicism and disbelief.

Relatively few British managers have learnt how to be really open and honest with their staff, how to create long-term trusting and supportive relationships that enable their people to develop and exploit their latent talents and to enjoy individual and team success at work.

Training is an excellent example of the integrity gap found in many organisations. Most senior managers proclaim its importance, while few find time to make it happen.

No doubt, as both the Labour and Conservative parties jump on the training bandwagon, we will see another round of budget cuts whose first impact will be on training expenditure.

The trouble with large sections of British management is that it is not very good at putting its money where its mouth is. ERM and the single European market in 1992 will not cure that — unless top British managers are prepared to invest in turning their people, their managers and, therefore, their companies into being really European. The author, a former personnel director at British Caledonian Airways, now runs Superboss Training and Development, his own business. His book, *Incredible Bosses* (McGraw-Hill, £18.95), is published today.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Royal and heir at the Royal

THE Duchess of York, who has long had to suffer sometimes unflattering debates in the press about her figure, looks set to confound her critics once again. After wooing Manhattan at a charity ball last week, she will be the star guest tonight at a new health club in Bracknell, just five miles from her Berkshire home. And the Duchess looks likely to become a regular at the club, which is being launched by Patrick Henchoz, managing director of ISL Leisure and previously employed by Whitbread, the brewer. Henchoz reveals that Princess Beatrice has already been using the club's facilities. The club, the Royal Berkshire, opened its membership lists five weeks ago, charging £1,100 for the first year's membership. The club boasts 20 tennis courts, a swimming pool and a large gymnasium. For those seeking a little more, there is a bar, restaurant, health and beauty salon and two squash courts. "It is nice to think she might use the club," says Henchoz, who set up ISL Leisure four months ago, with backing from Insight Securities and AMO, a venture capital group. "The Duchess has a keen interest in tennis and fitness, and her daughter Beatrice has been coming to our 'tiny tots' sessions on Friday afternoons," Henchoz, aged 33, was formerly the director of

leisure for Country Club Hotels, part of Whitbread, and promises more such deals to come.

GRAHAM Wallace, the Canadian who was head of corporate communications at Janus Capital for three years until his departure six months ago, has resurfaced at TSB Group. His new title as head of media relations means that he will be responsible for press enquiries. "It is along the same lines as James Capel, but with a bigger and more complex organisation," says Wallace, aged 43. He has lived in Britain since arriving for a six-week working holiday to write for magazines ten years ago.

Deja vu

JULIA Barnes, known in the City for her grasp of French stocks and shares, has unexpectedly staged a comeback. Barnes, a saleswoman who

specialises in French equities, has rejoined Hoare Govett — two years after leaving the firm to try her luck elsewhere. "I feel like I've come home," says Barnes, aged 30, who suffered the misfortune of joining Van Haelen, the European specialist stockbroker, six days before it collapsed in 1988. After nine months with Schroder Securities, she joined Carnegie International before supposedly turning her back on the City for good in May this year to pursue more artistic interests. "I changed my mind," says Barnes, who spent a month travelling in India before returning to take up her new role with the team of Stefano Mazzola, director of European sales. Those in the Square Mile who know Barnes of old will recall her passion for wearing red and black — a combination which has earned her the nickname "debit and credit".

SIGN spotted by a European analyst in the window of a Rome laundry. Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

Marriage stakes

CORPORATE tussles between Dewe Rogerson, acting for the government, and Schroders, lead underwriter in the electricity issue, should have been set aside yesterday when Louise Solomon married Alan Jacobs at Hampstead Synagogue. For Louise, daughter of Harry Solomon of Hilldown Holdings fame, is on the electricity team, at

Dewe Rogerson, while Jacobs works in the corporate finance department at Schroders with Gerry Grimstone. Jacobs is also widely suspected of being the man behind the sinister "ducknapping" episode in the run-up to last year's water flotation.

Celtic cheer

FOR as passionate a Scot as David McGibbon, finance director at Grampian Holdings, England's progress in June to the brink of the World Cup football final at Rome in July might have been unbearable, but for the effect it was having on his business back home. "It was a terrific boost for our Mitre sportswear business," he says, adding that few Scots were cheering louder than he was, "but purely from a business standpoint, you understand". To the job that Scottish sales may not have been so good, he has a ready answer. "Ah, but our rugby boots sold well" — a reference to Scotland's Grand Slam last season. Grampian has also scored in Ireland this summer, where its French soccer boot manufacturer, Patrick, took advantage of the surge in interest created by the heroics of Jack Charlton's team. "The business may be French, and it may also sponsor Andreas Brehme. West Germany's winning goal-scorer, but there was no convincing Irishmen that Patrick boots were anything but Irish," laughs McGibbon.

JON ASHWORTH

Pirelli tactics show laxity of takeover rules on Continent

ANYONE who thought that a European takeover code was unnecessary, would have to think again in the light of the tactics employed by Pirelli, the Italian tyre maker, in its hostile bid for Continental, its larger German rival.

One of Pirelli's central claims, when it made its bid last month, was that it had support from the voting majority of Continental shareholders. But this claim was a bluff. That is not illegal in either Germany or Italy — even though it is in Britain.

The maximum voting power for a single shareholder in Continental is 5 per cent. To speak for a majority, Pirelli needs the support of at least 11 shareholders, each owning 5 per cent of the company. A more realistic figure is probably 15 shareholders.

So far, only three parties have admitted to owning Continental shares and supporting Pirelli, which has a 5 per cent stake. One is Merrill Lynch, the American investment bank, which is adviser to Pirelli and holds a 1 per cent stake. Two Milan merchant banks, Mediobanca, and Sopaf. Both hold 5 per cent.

Pirelli can, therefore, claim to speak for 16 per cent, including its own stake, but this is far short of the 51 per cent it needs even to stand a fighting chance in a hostile bid situation. There might be other shareholders who, for reasons of their own, do not wish the public to know about their support for Pirelli. But it will not add up to 51 per cent. At least not yet.

Until Pirelli has the necessary support, it will not be

able to call an extraordinary shareholders' meeting to overcome the 5 per cent voting restriction, a necessary precursor to the launch of a bid.

The issue of Pirelli's support raises two fundamental questions. Why two Milan financial institutions should emerge as shareholders in Continental at a time when Pirelli, also a Milan company, is trying to take it over, is unlikely to be regarded as a coincidence, particularly in a country where the business community closely-knit.

There are few hard-hitting rules governing share transactions. Share support operations are not illegal, nor are deals under which the bidder could compensate its supporters. In Britain, this was one of the charges that put Ernest Saunders and Gerald Ronson in prison. Had they been Italian, they would still be "onesti uomini d'affari".

There is no takeover code in Germany, and there is no shareholding level at which a bid would automatically be triggered.

The British criticism that people on the Continent over-regulate, does not hold in this instance. The problem is an almost complete lack of regulation for the conduct of mergers.

If the run-up to the single European market is to lead to the much predicted takeover boom next year and in 1992, Europe will almost certainly be a messy corporate marketplace.

WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

European Business Correspondent

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Paro Foods	Food	1.00
2	Domino	Food	1.00
3	Waddington (U)	Food	1.00
4	Jardine Math	Food	1.00
5	Low Group	Food	1.00
6	Microfilm Repro	Food	1.00
7	De La Rue	Food	1.00
8	Crab Eater	Food	1.00
9	Starm Water	Food	1.00
10	Grande (as)	Food	1.00
11	Medeva	Food	1.00
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98	Hardy & House	Food	1.00
99	Waddington	Food	1.00
100	Domino	Food	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend				
Company	Dividend	Share Price	Yield	Dividend
Paro Foods	1.00	10.00	10.0%	1.00
Domino	1.00	10.00	10.0%	1.00
Waddington (U)	1.00	10.00	10.0%	1.00
Jardine Math	1.00	10.00	10.0%	1.00
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Next generation game Britain can win

The government must plan to develop the right kind of graduate, say Malcolm Frazer and Sir Graham Hills

Once again, Britain is on the brink of another surge of expansion of higher education. It will be driven partly by student demand and partly by the pressing need for a better-educated population more ready to adapt to technological and environmental changes. The government itself has expressed the wish to double the number of graduates, perhaps by the end of the present decade.

The last impetus for a big increase in student numbers was the Robbins Report, which triggered in the Sixties a sharp increase in the number of students, partly through the creation of new universities. It was also the *raison d'être* for the subsequent expansion of the polytechnic sector. However, the high hopes of Robbins that higher education should be available to every citizen able to benefit from it went unfulfilled for two reasons, and it is imperative that the same mistakes are not repeated.

The two regrets of the Robbins expansion were that it was conceived and delivered as an extension of the conventional specialist honours degree, and that the expense of so doing was unsustainable. The expansion therefore fizzled out.

The linear extension of a system designed for a gifted minority was, and is, neither possible nor desirable. Not possible because the level of human and material resources available was insufficient to create new Oxforwards, Cambridges or Edinburghs, and not desirable because Britain neither needed nor wanted more of the same kind of graduate, either in particular disciplines or in the level of educational attainment.

Over-production of conventional honours graduates would be not only a waste of resources but would deny other newer and less-conventional disciplines the gifted undergraduates they needed.

Britain missed the opportunity to create another kind of graduate: professionally uncommitted, more intellectually mobile and more likely to sustain the new industries, especially the service industries. This kind of graduate, the staple in America, is the



The library of New Hall, Cambridge: the re-structuring of college courses should be planned more carefully than it was in the Sixties

product of a less-focused, less-intensive course of study. Such students graduate with a general, unclassified degree. Their education is less-specialised, cheaper and the only sensible basis for mass higher education.

The creation of such an intermediate and less-specialised first degree has great advantages for those who graduate from such courses, as well as for those who

A foundation degree would lead to harmonisation with Europe

subsequently build professional careers on such a broad foundation. It is still the normal route for graduates in the United States progressing from their first university to their second.

Something of this stepped progression through higher education was suggested in 1969 when a two-plus-two-plus-two model was advocated as the normal academic pathway along which all students should progress.

With this scheme, the first two years were for a foundation degree, the second for the specialist,

masters degree, the third for the doctorate. That was then too radical a change for the establishment, as was the later recommendation from the Leverhulme Trust in 1982 of a two-year first degree. Both proposals made the serious error of evaluating university degrees by years of study instead of by levels of attainment. We advocate that, irrespective of time taken, there should be two levels of graduation, one at a higher level and of more specialised content than the other.

Once it is agreed that the early commitment to an advanced-level specialised degree is best postponed until the completion of a foundation first degree, most, if not all, of the problems of premature specialisation at schools and universities fall away.

Two other advantages stem from the general introduction of a foundation degree. First, that access to higher education can be easily and immediately widened without the fear that the admission of less well-qualified applicants would lead to increased failure to last the normal course of the honours degree.

The second advantage of the new degree is that it would lead at once to the harmonisation of British higher education with that in the rest of Europe. Many other

countries already require that undergraduates study first for an unclassified foundation degree or some such qualification in a first cycle of higher education. That degree is then the basis for entry either to high-grade employment or to further professional or academic studies. If therefore British higher education is to enjoy easy working relations with its European counterparts, the

Such modular course arrangements would greatly enhance flexibility

first, foundation degree courses would be the obvious point of connection.

The restructuring of the first degree would offer useful economies to both students and to those who support them. The first foundation degree can, if desired, be taken over a shorter period of time, as in Scotland.

As universities become more efficient in using their facilities, more use will be taken of, for example, extended summer terms. Some students will want to take "fast-track" courses. Modular

course arrangements would greatly enhance curricular flexibility, credit transfer and student interchange and would allow students to intersperse other, non-academic activities with their periods of study. The undergraduate degree courses would become more tailor-made for those who take them.

The emergence of the first, foundation degree would in no way diminish the standard of the second, specialist degree. Quite the reverse: it would ensure that such degree courses were more broadly based than at present and to the lasting benefit of professional graduates, whose career demands will change greatly during their working lives. In the end, it is likely to encourage more, not fewer, students to pursue professional, academic or honours second degree studies.

Above all else, study for the foundation degree would be an inviting rather than daunting prospect for many more aspiring undergraduates. A better basis for the initial education of undergraduates is urgently required.

Dr Frazer is chief executive of the Council for National Academic Awards, and Professor Hills principal and vice-chancellor, University of Strathclyde.

Today's youngsters may be determined to succeed, but the examination system is working against them

Employers consider that Britain's education system does our young people a disservice by preparing them inadequately for work and adult life. The horizons of individuals, they say, need to be broadened and their expectations of themselves raised.

Young people are more likely to be recruited for their ideas and skills to help achieve corporate objectives rather than their qualifications to tackle a specific task.

Employers' interests in post-16 education are inevitably influenced by the pace of change in the nature of work. This means that a different kind of contribution is now needed from employees and schools.

The challenge from international competition, not just from Europe, but from the newly industrialising Pacific region, has intensified employers' concerns about education. The UK has lower levels of education attainment and fewer qualified workers than Germany, France and Japan. Taken together, these trends mean urgent action is required and the debate about change for 16 to 19 year-olds, which has now gone on for more than two decades, should be well and truly over.

The status quo is not an option. We must have change. Employers would like to see breadth as the key feature of A-levels and post-16 education — in content, in skills and in opportunities. They are looking for a system of qualifications for sixth-formers in schools (and 16 to 18 year-olds in full-time further education) which provides for:

- development of core transferable skills,
- breadth of study that opens, rather than closes, options,
- opportunity to transfer easily between academic and vocational education,
- regular, documented assessment of competence,
- records of achievement, with individual action plans.

The present system fails this test. Young people should study a balanced curriculum in a range of disciplines. It is usual in all our competitor countries to study at

least five. The process of learning should also be more varied. There is little value in studying six not three A-levels if, for the most part, it means absorbing twice as much knowledge. Core skills, such as communication, personal effectiveness and applications of technology, should be developed in part of every A-level course. Employers often tell me they have recruited many young people with splendid academic records, but few of them communicate well, take teamwork in their stride or are technologically literate.

Opportunities to succeed should be maximised in A-levels, with achievement rewarded regularly, and there should be scope for much easier transfer to vocational courses — and vice-versa. It is difficult to see the point of having a 30 per cent failure rate as the norm. The waste of talent serves neither the economy nor social justice. A common view is that failure is necessary to maintain standards, but this is not a view shared by our competitors, or, indeed, the Scots. Why do twice as many girls qualify for higher education in Scotland as in England and Wales?

Given the extent of employers' concerns about post-16 education, there is much to be welcomed in the School Examinations and Assessment Council's draft principles for A-levels. These give greater prominence to advanced supplementary levels, so it should become normal for students to study five or six subjects. Pupils require regular and varied assessment — excellent preparation for coping with deadlines and a range of challenges as well as helping to develop and sustain their self-confidence and competence.

Syllabus objectives are to be defined in terms of high-level skills as well as knowledge. There will be reporting in the form of records of achievement which will show what the student knows, understands and can do, an improvement on the present, minimalist grading system. Work is continuing to a tight time-scale on the integration of core skills in A-levels and on linkage with vocational qualifications. Education is to serve the interests of the pupils, but there is much in the development of the individual that meets employers' needs. The last words are best left with the young themselves. Their message is: "I want to succeed." We should give them better opportunities to do just that.

BRIAN CORBY
The author is the president of the Confederation of British Industry.

071-481 1066

EDUCATIONAL

071-481 1066

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER The Bracton Chair of Law

The University has re-established the Bracton Chair of Law in the Department of Law with effect from 1 October 1991. This foundation Chair was established in 1948. Applications are invited from individuals whose interests lie in any field of English Law.

The person appointed will be expected to foster research, teaching and generally provide academic leadership in English Law.

The Department provides LL.B and LL.B (European) courses for over 300 undergraduate students. Combined Honours courses, and higher degree teaching and research programmes for over 50 postgraduate students. The Centre for European Legal Studies promotes research in European Law and the Centre for Legal Interdisciplinary Development co-ordinates and develops research activities involving law and other disciplines.

Salary will be on the agreed Professorial range minimum £27,018 per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Personnel Division, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QJ, or by telephoning 0392-263100 (Ansaphone). Closing date for receipt of applications 23 November 1990.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG Senior Lecturers/ Lecturers in Law (Ref. 90/91-30)

Applications are invited for posts of Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Law. The Faculty of Law contains a Department of Law (for undergraduate studies leading to the LL.B degree and a Master of Laws (LL.M) programme) and a Department of Professional Legal Education (for practice-oriented studies leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, undertaken by graduates intending to become lawyers).

Applicants should possess a good degree in law, preferably a higher degree, and an interest in and capacity for teaching and research. Knowledge of Hong Kong law, or experience of practice in Hong Kong or a similar jurisdiction, would be an additional though not a necessary qualification. An indication of the applicant's teaching and research interests would be helpful. Applicants with any field of interest will be considered, although the Department is particularly keen to appoint a candidate to teach in one or more of the following areas: criminal law, land law, commercial law, family law, the law of trusts, succession, evidence, intellectual property, shipping or admiralty.

Annual salary (superannuable) on the scales: Senior Lecturer HK\$435,000 - \$584,340 (9 points) (approx £28,810 - 38,700); Lecturer HK\$279,900 - HK\$457,700 (11 points) (approx £18,540 - £30,970, sterling equivalent as at October 17, 1990). Starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience. At current rates, salaries tax will not exceed 15% of gross income. Children's education allowances, leave, and medical benefits are provided; housing or tenancy allowances are also provided in most cases at a charge of 7.5% of salary.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Appointments (38804), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 38 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, U.K., or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, University of Hong Kong, Wai Hing (852) 5592058; E-mail: APPOINT@HKUVM.HKU.HK. Closes 4 January 1991.

DIRECTOR OF COMPUTER SERVICES

The University of Ulster, a large multi-campus university with some 13,000 students, is seeking to appoint a Director of Computer Services following the retirement of the present Director.

The effectiveness with which computer-based information technology is managed is a key issue in delivering the academic plan of the University. Computer, Library, Audio and Visual Services are being planned as an integrated whole with appropriate network links within and between campuses, and further afield to national and international centres.

The Director is responsible for the computing and data communication services of the University, covering teaching, research, library, administration and special computing initiatives with industry and other bodies and the development of the University's overall IT strategy.

Applicants should be suitably qualified to degree standard and have had extensive experience in the development of advanced computer and communications services as a senior manager.

Salary will be negotiable around £30,000 per annum.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Staffing Officer, University of Ulster at Coleraine, Cromore Road, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry BT52 1SA (telephone: Coleraine (0265) 44141, ext 4348). Please quote reference number C90/320. Closing date: 16 November 1990. An equal opportunity employer.

University of Ulster

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES University of London

READERSHIP IN POLITICS WITH REFERENCE TO ASIA

The School invites applications for the established Readership in the Politics of Asia in the Department of Political Studies, tenable at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Scholars with a specialisation in the Politics of China, Japan or South Asia are especially encouraged to apply. Competence in Chinese or another appropriate language is essential. Established scholars with expertise in any of the central areas of the study of Asian politics such as public policy, the politics of development or international politics, will be considered.

The appointment will date from 1 October 1991. Applications (10 copies) should be submitted to the Secretary, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornham Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, from whom further particulars should first be obtained.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 15 December 1990.

LECTURESHIP IN ECONOMICS

Salary \$11,500 - \$18,000

Applications are invited from suitably qualified graduates for a Lectureship in Economics, Grade A, from 1 January 1991 or as soon as possible thereafter. Applications are welcome from candidates in any specialist field of Economics, but a willingness to assist in the teaching of Introductory Statistics would be an advantage. Possibilities exist for the successful candidate to pursue research leading to a post-graduate qualification.

Applications (five copies) with a curriculum vitae, including the names of three referees, should be sent to:

The Assistant Registrar, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG not later than 30 November 1990.

Interested applicants may contact either Professor Martin Ricketts, or Professor G K Shaw, University of Buckingham. The Tel: (0280) 614080

University of Buckingham

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM LECTURESHIP IN LAW

As part of its programme of expansion in Law, the University has recently appointed to a Chair of Law and to the Allen & Overy Chair in European Law. It invites applications for a Lectureship in any field of legal studies, tenable from 1 January 1991 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Salary will be on the Lecturer Grade A scale (£12,086 - £16,755 p.a.) or the Lecturer Grade B scale (£11,455 - £12,311 p.a.) depending upon qualifications and experience.

Further details may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Old Shire Hall, Durham, DH1 3HP. Tel: 091 374 4687 to whom applications should be sent not later than 21 November 1990. Please quote reference 57.

RESEARCH POSTS

CHARING CROSS AND WESTMINSTER
MEDICAL SCHOOL
(University of London)

RESEARCH GRANTS AND CLAIMS OFFICER

required to be responsible for all financial arrangements in connection with the School's sponsored research work. The post may be of interest to a graduate who already has some accounting and/or administrative experience as well as to more experienced applicants.

Salary within Scales Admin. £11,399-£13,495 or Admin. £12,408-£19,613 p.a. plus £1,767 p.a. London Allowance according to qualifications and experience. Applications on forms obtainable from the Secretary, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, The Raynolds Building, St Dunstan's Road, London W6 8PP. Tel: 081 846 7206, to be submitted within two weeks of the appearance of this advertisement. (Quote Ref: 90/89)

FELLOWSHIPS

The University of Manchester Senior Fellowships

Applications are invited for SIMON RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS in any of the Social Sciences, including Law and Education, tenable during the academic session 1991/92. Sponsors, where applicable, normally within the range £11,399-£22,311 p.a. (Simon Research Fellowships) or £25,423-£26,471 p.a. (Simon Senior Research Fellowships) according to qualifications and experience. These Fellowships should not be confused with the Simon Industrial and Professional Fellowships which have been advertised separately.

Applications are invited for HALLSWORTH FELLOWSHIPS in advanced work in the field of Political Economy (including Public Administration). Sponsors where applicable, within the range £11,399-£22,013 p.a. according to qualifications and experience.

These Fellowships are not awarded for postgraduate study and applicants should have experience which will qualify them to carry out a substantial piece of original research. Enquiries about the scope of the Fellowships are welcomed. Further particulars and application forms (returnable by December 1st, 1990) are obtainable from the Registrar (Academic Staffing), The University, Manchester M13 9PL. Tel: 061 275 2028. Please state for which Fellowship details are required and quote ref. 308/90.

The University is an equal opportunities employer.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Leverhulme Trust

RESEARCH AWARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR 1991

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Awards of up to £11,500 to persons experienced in their own field pursuing their own investigations (but not degrees or equivalent). Awards tenable for three months to two years. No subject of enquiry excluded. Applicants must have been educated in the United Kingdom or other part of the Commonwealth and be normally resident in the United Kingdom. Applications form F2A. Closing date, Thursday 15 November 1990.

EMERITUS FELLOWSHIPS

Awards of up to £5,775 a year for one or two years to enable persons to complete a piece of research. Applicants must have recently held full-time academic positions in universities or other institutions of similar status in the United Kingdom and have attained the age of 59 or above at the time of retirement. Applications form F6A. Closing date, Thursday 15 November 1990.

Applications on the appropriate form must be in the hands of the Secretary not later than the date specified and cannot be considered if arriving after that date. Application forms and further information from: The Secretary, Research Awards Advisory Committee, The Leverhulme Trust, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3NR (Telephone: 071-822 8952).

EDUCATION

EDITED BY DAVID TYTLER

Banking on thrift

Some schools are using building societies to teach the saving habit. Hugh Thompson discovers how some students are cashing in

More and more schools are being forced into realising the potential of commercial sponsorship and co-operation with local companies, but in one area at least, a partnership has long flourished between schools and local money.

In the past ten years, building societies have co-operated with schools in setting up savings clubs. The North of England Society, based in Sunderland, has 27 school savings clubs operating in the northeast. Rita Jackson, who supervises the club at St Anthony's, a convent school in Sunderland, sees it as part of the Certificate of Pre Vocational Education course she teaches.

"We started the club five years ago, when CPVE started," she says. "We teach the merits of saving, but our main concern is the responsibility and work experience for the 20 or so girls who run the club in rota."

"They organise the paying-in of savings, keep the books and liaise with the society. Having this connection helps us get more girls into work experience in the society's 52 branches. We also have access to the branch manager for our job application and interview programme."

"We have girls running a small

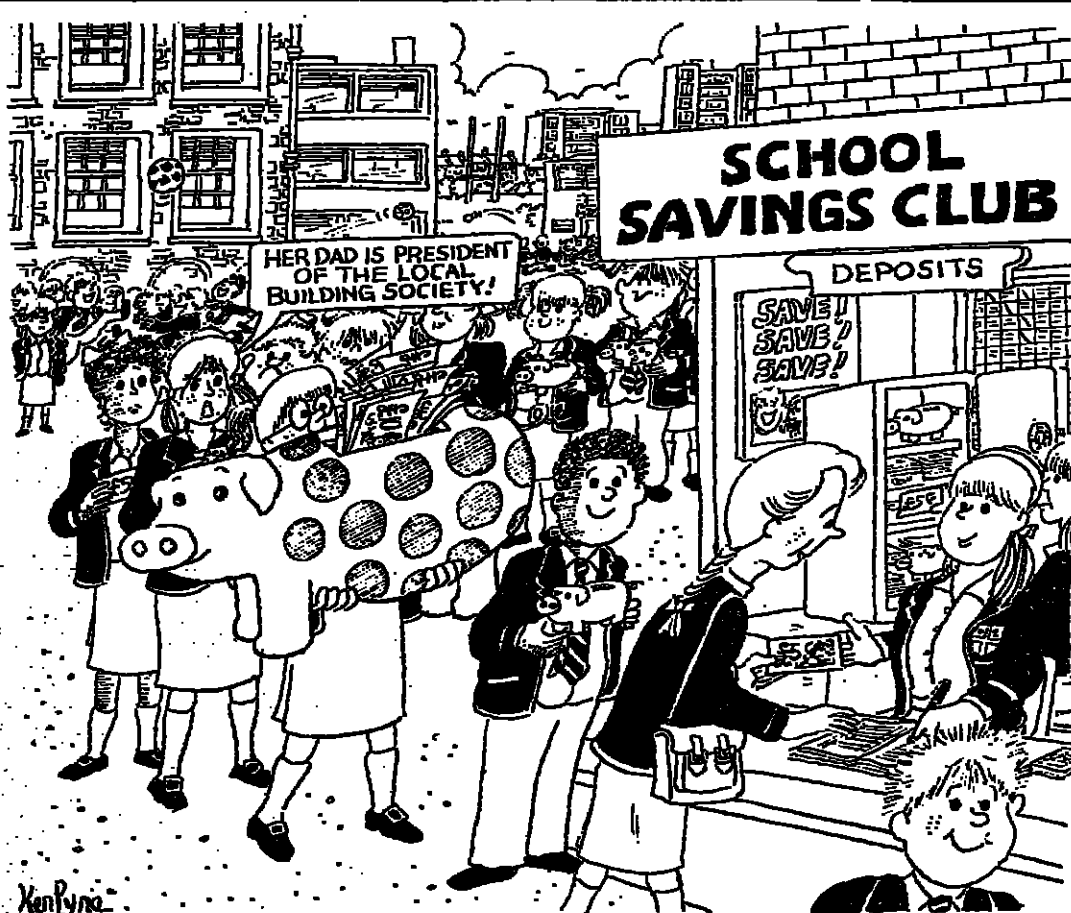
catering business under the enterprise scheme, too, and they have an account with the club."

Of St Anthony's 1,100 girls, 260 have an account, but the average balance is only slightly more than £6, so it is hardly good business for the society. Most societies calculate they lose money because of the administrative costs on accounts smaller than £300.

One of the most successful savings clubs in Sunderland's schools, at Whitburn comprehensive, is largely the work of Wendy Tobin, the head of the English department. "I used to work at the Trustee Savings Bank and I am a great believer in the thrift habit," she says. "There is a big fall-off as the students go through the school, but the idea of saving has by then been put in their heads. Although half the 600 children have opened an account, only about 40 keep the savings habit through their school career. We have six of the fourth and fifth year pupils running the club."

The students who help to organise the savings clubs know that the connection will not only help them get a job in the local society but will help them get a professional reference from the branch manager.

David Wright, the branch manager of the Britannia Building



Society, in central Stoke-on-Trent, organises three school clubs. "The schools like the connection because it gives them another resource," he says. "I am always being asked to give talks on credit, mortgages and other financial matters. We do not see these savings clubs as ways of making money, but as ways of making contact with future customers."

One reason regional societies have been more successful than others in making the school connection is because of their local identity and their non-profit-making status.

Some parent-teacher organisations have asked whether, if they guaranteed a certain membership level for the savings club, the building society could make a donation. "So far," Mr Wright says, "we have resisted, although we are happy to sponsor cups, prizes and special projects."

North of England's David Goodfellow says: "We give £100 to a school for setting up a club and 50p for every active account. We are thinking of raising that. Other institutions in Sunderland have tried to start savings clubs, but their attitude has been to give a lot of gifts and kits, then walk away. Clubs work only if the building society is committed."

Small societies, such as the North of England and the Britannia, see encouraging their local identity through school savings clubs as a weapon against the big societies and banks that advertise on television. Last year, one of the biggest, the Leeds, dropped its schools clubs, claiming they did little to encourage future profitable customers. The biggest society, the Halifax, is considering the future of its clubs. "My view," Mr Goodfellow says, "is that the money we spend on schools is better spent than anything we spend on advertising."

NOTICEBOARD

Vouching for the East

VOUCHERS might have slipped down the political agenda in Britain, but their supporters think they have found fertile ground for an experiment in eastern Europe. Stuart Sexton, a champion of vouchers since his days as political adviser to Lord Joseph, is in Poland this week advising the education ministry on a range of measures to increase parental choice.

Mr Sexton, now the director of the Independent Primary and Secondary Education Trust, expects local management of schools and an adaptation of grant-maintained status to be of more immediate interest to the Polish government. But officials see vouchers as a possible way of funding an increasingly diverse school system, which now includes 200 schools outside the state sector. Interest in British reforms was demonstrated at a conference this month in Geneva organised by Oidel, an international body dedicated to parental choice, attended by many central and east European participants. Mr Sexton says: "When I was in the Soviet Union earlier this year, it was clear there was considerable interest. The Geneva conference brought out the growing inter-relationship between West and East on education matters."

Sea change

SIXTH-FORMERS from three schools in the Sefton area of northwest England have been spending the weekend with families in Belfast as part of a new exchange programme developed by Liverpool University's Institute of Irish Studies. Thirty pupils from the English schools took part in the visit, which grew out of a Northern Ireland project. A programme of academic and social activities will end today and next year a party of Belfast students will make the return journey.

Bunny money

A comprehensive school in Rotherham is heading for success in the pop music charts after being commissioned to make a promotional video for the new single by a group with a string of hits to its name.

John Pickles, the creator of Jive Bunny, approached his local school after taking a sixth-former on a work experience course. As well as recouping all

expenses for the video, Maltby comprehensive has been promised a donation to school funds.

Fiver fame

SOME universities have their own credit cards, others are pictured on cheques, but only Queen's university, Belfast, appears on a banknote. An engraving of the university's main building, detail from its stonework and carvings, and images from stained-glass windows in the music school all appear on a new £5 note issued by the Bank of Ireland.

The bank's chief executive, Paddy Murphy, said Queen's had been chosen to adorn its first new note for 23 years both for the striking architecture and because of the university's worldwide reputation.

Booker tip

PUNTERS seeking an early tip for next year's Booker Prize should keep a close eye on Kent university's literary diary. Not only was the latest



A.S. Byatt: a clue in Kent

winner, A.S. Byatt, invited several months ago to lecture on her novel *Possession*, so was her predecessor, Kazuo Ishiguro, a year earlier. The university, which stages the Byatt lecture on November 30, denies any prior knowledge of the judges' thinking.

Building castles

EIGHT pupils from Richmond Park school, Glasgow, will have a "medieval" day out at Kenilworth castle, Warwickshire, as winners of a new "hands-on history" competition run by Campus 2000, the education network owned partly by The Times Network Systems and the Data Design company. Clues to the identity of two castles were broadcast on the network for a month. Schools then had to present a three-dimensional model and portfolio on the subject.

JOHN O'LEARY

When discipline can put young lives in danger

THE DEATH of a 15-year-old Japanese girl whose skull was fractured by a heavy gate pushed shut by a teacher on playground duty has highlighted the harmful aspects of strict discipline and rigid rules in the country's schools.

Kobe Takatsuka high school had a policy of shutting its main gate at 8.30am to lock out students late for classes. The 440 lb gate crushed Ryoko Ishida's head against a post. The teacher who closed the gate was sacked and may now be prosecuted for negligence. At a school assembly called to mourn Ryoko's death, the principal reiterated school policy on late arrivals and reminded students of the importance of observing school rules.

Japanese high schools demand strict standards of dress and behaviour. Most schools insist on a uniform of military-style trousers and tunics for boys and sailor suits for girls. Some specify the colour of socks

and underwear for students and even the number of eyelets they can have in their sports shoes.

"Nineteenth century dress is backed by 19th century rules," says Hiroshi Nishimura, a student aged 16. "My trousers have to be an exact colour, length and width, and girls have to make sure their skirts have the correct number of pleats."

After-school life is dictated by rules that specify the route students take to get home and the precise time they should start homework. Other rules forbid pupils from visiting amusement centres and coffee shops. Breaches of discipline are noted in

students' conduct files, which are used to help determine admission to the country's high schools and universities.

Although corporal punishment is officially banned in Japanese schools, it is regularly used by teachers to enforce rules. A number of pupils have been seriously injured and even killed after being assaulted by teachers enforcing school rules.

Takeshi Hayashi, the 22-year-old author of several books criticising excessive rules and violence against pupils, believes Japanese schools are returning to pre-war authoritarianism. Two years ago, a group of 120 lawyers launched a campaign against

petty and trivial rules they said were violating children's basic human rights. Some schools subsequently abolished a few of their pettier rules, others made no changes. Yet schools with strict regimes often have parental backing. Several surveys show that most parents support strong discipline rules, particularly at a time when juvenile delinquency has been rising.

Sachiko Yajakawa, a mother with two children who attend high school in Nagoya, says: "Bullying is such a problem that teachers have to be strict with students."

Many Japanese believe that strict rules are needed to maintain order in the country's overcrowded classrooms and that learning to conform is an important part of education in a nation that has become one of the world's most successful.

JOHN GREENLEES

● The author has recently returned from working in Japan.

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COURSES



King's College London
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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A new BA course in the Department of War Studies under Professor Lawrence Freedman. The course takes a multi-disciplinary approach to the problems of armed conflict, both historical and contemporary.

Applications are now being accepted through UCCA for entry in 1991.

For details call 071 873 2193.

POSTS

Continued on next page

BOOSTING PARTICIPATION & ACHIEVEMENT POST' 16

The London Borough of Newham is committed to establishing a new system of post sixteen education and training for local residents, which will secure for them the economic, social and cultural advantages of living in London in the 1990s and beyond, as well as providing the best possible services and support to the development of local businesses.

Newham Community College was opened in 1986 for this purpose and has now established an excellent basis on which to take this aim forward. More recently, the Secretary of State for Education has given his approval to reorganise secondary education in the Borough into a system of 11-16 year old schools and to open a new Sixth Form College with effect from September 1992.

These two colleges will form a new college-based post sixteen system which will be charged with delivering the LEA's commitment to boosting participation and achievement in education, within a framework of Equality of Opportunity and Community Education. The consolidation of Newham Community College and the opening of the Sixth Form College present unique managerial challenges to transform the opportunities available to Newham residents through the realisation of a coherent system of post-school education and training which guarantees Access to, Success in and Progress

from relevant education and training for all sections of our local community.

We also intend to build on current practice and establish the strongest possible partnership with local communities and business, industry and higher education. Applications are therefore invited from outstanding managers with vision to work together in delivering these aims.



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NEWHAM
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

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SIXTH FORM
COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL

DESIGNATE
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London Allowance plus
the possibility of up to 15%
Performance Related Earnings
(to be determined)

Newham Community College is a thriving centre for further, higher and adult education in a forward-looking London Borough with a firm commitment to developing community education and widening towards equality of opportunity for all. The College has over 18,000 students (8,500 FTE), approximately 400 FTE Borough Grass staff and an annual expenditure of £15 million. It is now the largest college of further education in the South-East of England.

The Governors of the Community College are seeking to appoint a Principal Designate with effect from 1 April 1991. The appointee will become Principal on 1 September 1991 upon the retirement of the current postholder.

The task will be to take over the executive management of the major establishment in the period during which Newham's Scheme of Planning and Delegation is implemented. This sets out a challenging new framework for the College and represents a dynamic partnership between the new Governing Body and the LEA. You will be a manager of exceptional qualities with the ability to lead a large and complex institution with the aim of attaining the highest possible standard of excellence. You will have a record of success in implementing large scale change in a service organisation and a strong commitment to providing the highest possible quality of education for all Newham's communities.

For this exciting task the Governors are keen to consider applications from exceptional managers from a variety of backgrounds.

Newham Sixth Form College will open in September 1992 (first phase) and will be complete by September 1993 (second phase). The single campus college, which includes both refurbished and new-build facilities at a projected cost of £15m, will be able to accommodate 1,000 full-time students, and has been designed with extensive community use in mind.

The Sixth Form College will work in partnership with Newham Community College to provide the broadest possible range of post sixteen studies within a framework which aims to boost participation and achievement for Newham's local residents.

The Authority is seeking to appoint a Principal Designate with effect from 1 April 1991, in order that planning and preparation may be made for 1 September 1992, when the appointee will become Principal.

The task will be to lead the remaining phases of planning and preparation for the opening of the College in consultation with the Director of Education and the temporary Governing Body. As executive manager of the college you will lead the development and provision of the highest possible quality of post sixteen studies relevant to Newham's communities. You will be a senior educational manager of exceptional qualities and achievements with qualified teacher status, from either a school/college/university education background. You will have the experience and ability necessary to set-up and lead a large and innovative organisation devoted to a broad and flexible range of post sixteen studies. You will also have a strong commitment to the implementation and furtherance of Equality of Opportunity and Community Education through the work of the college.

Please telephone or write for an application form and further details indicating which post you are interested in to: Ms. F. Rahman, Education Department, London Borough of Newham, Broadway House, 322 High Street, London E15 1AJ. Tel. 081 555 5552 ext. 42148

COURSES

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COMMITTEE

GRANTS FOR TEACHING
AND RESEARCH

The annual income from a donation made by the Japan Foundation is available for endorsement by a Committee established under the auspices of the UKC for the promotion of Japanese Studies to degree-awarding institutions in the UK. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, c/o The University of Sheffield, P.O. Box 554, Sheffield S10 2JH, by whom completed applications must be received by Friday 18 November 1990 for consideration at the next meeting.

Qualified, experienced Teacher required to take charge of educational programme at 52 week residential school for approx. 20 children in care, aged 12-18 years. Immediate start. The programme covers theoretical and practical education, sports and music, sailing, leisure and study trips in UK and abroad. Salaries according to national wage scales. For further information please contact

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Tel: 071-383 3377 (24 hrs)
Fax: 071-381 3377

Will the bubble burst?

Education will be one of the main battle grounds in the next general election, with all parties claiming the answers to falling standards and demoralised teachers. One of the skirmishes will be over the future of independent schools.

At present, they are alive and well and managing to resist the economic pressure caused by high mortgage rates. They teach about 7 per cent of the country's children, with the figure rising to 20 per cent in the sixth form.

However, rising fees could halt an increase in those moving out of the state system. Average fees this year are £3,000 for day schools and £9,000 for boarding. The biggest demand is for the large day schools, particularly in London, where there are often five or six candidates for every place.

The question is, will this demand remain, or will the government's education reforms begin to improve schools to the extent that parents will stay in the state system? Independent schools see this as a possibility, which is why they have adopted the National Curriculum.

Arthur Hearn, the secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council, says: "We have to adapt to what is going on in the mainstream of education if we are to remain a part of it. Our schools cater for a range of pupils, not just the high-flyers. Some of them are exclusively academic, some are not. It is not a question of better or worse, but of dealing with the kind of children we have."

Life under a Labour government would be tougher, but not

Independent schools are flourishing, but their fortunes are linked to education policy, which can change at any time, David Tytler reports

impossible. The biggest concern for independent schools would be the cancellation of the assisted-places scheme, which subsidises fees for less well-off parents. Of the 474,000 pupils in independent schools, 67,000 receive scholarships or bursaries, with 30,000 on assisted places.

Labour would abolish the scheme. The schools insist they are more concerned with the impact abolition would have on the mix of their schools, rather than the economic consequences. Dr Hearn says: "If assisted places are phased out, we would be forced into being exclusive."

The independent schools have figures to show that pupils with assisted places are among the brightest they have, a statistic that can also be used by the state schools to show that they are being robbed of their brightest stars.

SELECTION FACTORS

	%
Discipline	86
Encouraging a study attitude	77
Respect	70
Developing social responsibility	69
Small classes	66
School right for the child	65
Artistic and musical activities	56
Science and technical facilities	55
Sports opportunities	54

Source: Market and Opinion Research International (MORI)

Independent schools pride themselves on their A-level passes, which average at about 45 per cent in A and B grades; assisted-places pupils can claim 52 per cent. At GCSE, the pass rate at A-C is 66 per cent, while assisted-places pupils claim 70 per cent.

The independent schools worry that only about 82 per cent of available assisted places are taken up. David Smith, the headteacher at the £2,750-a-year co-educational Bradford Grammar School, says: "The only flaw with the scheme is the low take-up in some areas. It might be that there are too many schools fishing in the same pond. There may be competition from state schools, or it may be that publicity is not good enough."

Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman, has upset the schools with a letter from Central Office asking all 295 inde-

ASSISTED PLACES TAKE-UP

	%
Northeast	72
Southeast	72
Greater London	77
Yorkshire/Humber/Side	80
East Anglia	80
East Midlands	87
West Midlands	87
Northwest	88
Southwest	88

Source: Market and Opinion Research International (MORI)

pendent schools operating the assisted-places scheme to provide lists of parents being helped. Most heads refused, believing that disclosure would break confidentiality between schools and parents.

There is no doubt that the influence of the independent schools would diminish under Labour, but at the moment they are able to influence the government out of all proportion to their numbers. The recent decision by John MacGregor, the education secretary, to allow schools to continue to teach the three sciences separately, rather than the double-award balanced science favoured by the School Examinations and Assessment Council (Seac), owes much to the influence of the Headmasters' Conference (HMC), which represents 230 of the leading independent schools.

Seac may come to grief again on the rock of the HMC, which has recently expressed its dislike of the council's proposals for reforming A-levels, the "gold standard" of the education system, to bring them more into line with the GCSE. The headmasters say that a move to course-work, coupled with a weakening of academic disciplines, will undermine the examination and reduce standards.

Parents give many reasons for choosing the independent schools, with one in five saying that they have been dissatisfied with state education. David Woodhead, the director of Isis, says: "The picture that emerges is of a highly critical body of parents looking at schools on their merits and choosing what is best for their children."



Bradford Grammar School, West Yorkshire: life would be tougher under Labour, but not impossible

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM ENTRY 1991

Scholarships and a limited number of ordinary places are available for boys of high academic ability wishing to enter the Sixth Form in September 1991.

There are four Scholarships (each a worth half fee and may be supplemented where parental income makes this necessary). Admission is by examination and interview held on the weekend of Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd February 1991. Full details may be obtained from:

The Headmaster, Shrewsbury School,
The School, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 7BA
Telephone: (0143) 4537

MORE HOUSE SCHOOL
22-24 PONT STREET, LONDON SW1X 0AA
Independent Catholic School for Girls aged 11-18

The school offers an excellent academic education to GCSE, 'A' level and University Entrance and a high teacher-pupil ratio.

The Entrance Examination for entry at 11+ and 12+ will take place on 25 January 1991.

Applications for Sixth Form places are also invited.

Some Scholarships (offering up to 50% of the fees) are available for 11+, 12+ and 6th Form entry.

Full details are available from the Headmistress's Secretary
071 235 2855

MORETON HALL SHROPSHIRE PRINCIPAL

The Governing Council invites applications for the post of Principal from September 1991, following the retirement of Mr. E. J. Conell.

Moreton Hall is an 11-18 boarding school for 350 girls, including a sixth form of over 100. It occupies a spacious site in lovely country on the Shropshire/Wales border with excellent access by road and rail to the conurbations of the West Midlands and North West. The Governors have recently completed an extensive programme of refurbishment and development.

Candidates should be graduates with boarding school experience.

Further details of the school and the post can be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Council
Moreton Hall
Weston Rhya, Oswestry
Shropshire SY11 3EW
Telephone: 0691 773671
Fax: 0691 778552

Closing date for receipt of applications is the 19th November 1990.

THE CHURCH SCHOOLS COMPANY
THE ALDERLEY SCHOOL
Hill Lane, Southamptons
SO9 1GR
Tel: 0703 77896

Girls ages 4-18 day
BOTTEN SCHOOL
3 Riverside Hill
Catherham, CR3 6BG
Tel: 0833 43386

Girls ages 4-18 day
GOLDPOD HILLS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
London Road, Guildford,
Surrey GU1 1ST
Tel: (043) 61440

Girls ages 4-18 day
SUBSTON EDGE SCHOOL
Subston Crescent,
Kingston-upon-Thames
KT1 2JT
Tel: 0181 546 3245

Girls ages 5-18 day
Boys ages 5-11 day
(In separate Preparatory School)

BULL HILL SCHOOL
Trinity Cross, Anlaby,
North Humberside HU10 7EL
Tel: 0482 657016

Girls ages 3-18 day
Ages 8-18 boarding
Boys ages 3-8 day
SUNDERLAND CHURCH HILLS SCHOOL
Mowbray Road,
Sunderland SR2 8YF
Tel: 091 567 4994

Girls ages 4-18 day
Boys ages 3-8 day
YORK COLLEGE
Low Petergate, York, YO1 2HZ
Tel: 0904 646421

Girls ages 3-18 day
Boys ages 3-8 day
All these schools are members of THE CHURCH SCHOOLS COMPANY and provide a full range of activities with high academic standards leading to entry to Universities or Polytechnics. Special emphasis is laid on spiritual training in accordance with the doctrine and worship of Church of England. Assisted places are available at Goldpod and Subston. Please contact individual schools for a prospectus and arrange a visit.

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS 1991

- Rossall is one of the North's leading co-educational public schools and has a reputation for excellence in a wide variety of academic, cultural and sporting activities.
- Each year, the Council of Rossall School offers a number of competitive scholarships for boys and girls who wish to be considered for entry to the School at ELEVEN PLUS and THIRTEEN PLUS. Amongst these are the TRAPNELL and JACKSON SCHOLARSHIPS, both of which cover the cost of the FULL boarding or day pupil fees.
- The ELEVEN PLUS Junior Scholarship examinations will take place 4/5th February 1991. The THIRTEEN PLUS Rossall Scholarship examinations will take place on 4/7th March 1991.
- In addition, the School offers a number of MUSIC Scholarships at eleven plus and thirteen plus, which include FREE tuition in two instruments, and an ART & DESIGN scholarship at thirteen plus.
- If you would like further details of any of these Scholarships, or to learn more about Rossall, please contact:

The Admissions Office (91/8), Rossall School,
FLEETWOOD FY7 8JW Tel: Fleetwood (03917) 6116

ROSSALL

EDUCATIONAL POSTS

UNIVERSITY OF BATH SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY
PROFESSOR OF PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for the Chair of Physical Chemistry.

Candidates with a strong research track record and/or theoretical areas are invited to request further particulars about the appointment.

It is envisaged that the successful candidate will take up the appointment in September 1991 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Further particulars may be obtained from Peter J Hill, Director of Personnel, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY, telephone 0225-826026

Closing date for applications: 30th November 1990

ELS INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRES LTD
DIRECTOR (UK OPERATIONS)
£30,000 + Company car + bonus + benefits

ELSI/UK seeks motivated graduate entrepreneur with minimum five years experience in English language school management, including at least one year in marketing and sales. The Director will have responsibility for overall management of UK operations including marketing and sales, financial control, programme development and implementation, personnel management. ELSI/UK was established in 1983 by its parent company ELSI/USA to run English Language teaching programmes. ELSI/UK currently operates two year-round centres, summer and executive programmes as well as English at a Teacher's Home programmes. The position will be based in Greenwich, London.

Apply in writing enclosing full CV and daytime and evening telephone number to: Ms D Wilson, ELSI/AIFS, 37 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR. Deadline for applications: 16 November 1990 (no agencies)

Soit l'equation S = UT + 1/2at^2
Given that Maths A + French A + XA = Success come to

BORDEAUX INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

- A bilingual British style school
- Preparation for A level, AS, and G.C.E. (inc. re-takes)
- Year-out and intensive Language Courses
- Small group study
- Live with a French family
- Student teacher ratio 5:1

Enquiries: Mrs. M. Strubbs R.A. Director, Bordeaux International School, 23 rue de Languedoc, 33000 Bordeaux, France. Tel: 010 33 56 44 27 55. Fax: 010 33 56 79 96 47. U.K. Telephone: 01634 55555

The Monthly Correspondence Course in SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

A one year course on the theory and practice of teaching materials with 10 modules through the year. For further details, contact: Mrs. M. Strubbs R.A. Director, 23 rue de Languedoc, 33000 Bordeaux, France. Tel: 010 33 56 44 27 55. Fax: 010 33 56 79 96 47. U.K. Telephone: 01634 55555

BROOKSIDE SECRETARIAL COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Postgraduate, 2 Brookes Road, Cambridge CB2 1LW. Tel: 0223 545555

THREE MONTH INTENSIVE COURSES All courses include: Grammar, Typing, M/P, Audit, Fax, Video, Office Machinery, Secretarial Skills. Courses commence September, January, April. For further details please contact above.

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

1815 Clarens/ Montreux British International School for Girls founded 1927

St. George's provides a first class education for girls in a dazzling setting beside Lake Geneva. International GCSE and A-levels: a full British programme; intensive French and entry to British and American universities. Pupil/Teacher ratio 4/1. Excellent examination results, handsome accommodation and superb sports facilities (skiing, tennis, riding) as well as drama, music, art, and cultural visits in Europe.

Give your daughter this unique and truly international experience for two years to IGCE or to A-level. Bursaries of up to half the full fees.

For comprehensive prospectus write to Alan Locke, Principal Tel (021) 694 3411, Fax (021) 964 49 32 Quoting Ref AL

General Manager/Bursar
Surrey/M25

To £33,000 + car

Our client is a well established educational trust with three highly successful schools which offer nursery and preparatory education for totally 900 pupils. Annual fees in 1990/91 will be over £2.5 million.

The position, based at one of the schools, reports to the Executive Committee and has an accounting staff of three people. The role involves providing central services and liaising between the Committee and the three headmasters. Key responsibilities include financial reporting and management, managing an accounts department, corporate secretarial functions, buildings maintenance and estates management, and other administrative matters.

The appointee must have strong financial reporting experience of computerised accounts and have prepared and monitored budgets over £1 million. The role could suit an ex-Forces officer or businessman/woman seeking a second career. Prior experience as a Bursar would be useful but it is less important than proven success as an administrator or manager.

Rewards include an excellent salary, a fully expensed quality car and private medical insurance, to start in the position early January if possible.

Please write in confidence explaining your interest and suitability for this role and enclosing details of education, career and salary, plus a daytime telephone number, quoting reference 1648, to Barbara Robertson MA, MIMC.

BDO CONSULTING
BDO Consulting 20 Old Bailey
London EC4M 7BH

St. Catharine's College, Cambridge COLLEGE LECTURESHIP IN LAW

The College intends to appoint with effect from 1 October 1991 a College Lecturer to teach Law. The Lecturer will also be elected to a Fellowship.

The appointment will be for 3 years in the first instance. The salary will be equivalent to that of a University Assistant Lecturer. Further particulars may be obtained from the Master's Secretary, St Catharine's College, Cambridge CB2 1RL.

ISM SCHOOL MANAGEMENT France
Course Director required

For language courses run by ISM for 11-14 year olds in France from Easter 1991.

For details apply to:-
ISM Ltd, 228-230 Fulham Road, London SW10 9NE
Tel: 071 376 7660. Fax: 071 376 7656

ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE LONDON
SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION
14th November, 1990

Open to candidates for secretarial training in 1991

For further information contact:
Head of Training, 2 Adelphi Road,
London NW3 6AD
Telephone: 071 435 9031
Fax: 071 435 9030

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Exampstead

For girls and boys from 3-13. For further information and interview please contact the School

Secretary at:
69 Fitzroy Avenue,
London NW6 6PD
Tel: 071 435 1976

St James's Secretarial College
Founded 1912

Modern Office Skills 1990 A course in secretarial skills and office machinery for girls and boys from 11-18. For further details contact the School

071-373 3852/3943330

THE SUNDAY TIMES

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION FEATURE

The Sunday Times and The Times will publish the Independent Education Feature again on November 4th and 5th.

The Sunday Times and The Times combined reach 1,738,000 adults with children, many of whom will be seriously considering the options of Independent Education.

For more details of this feature or to place your advertisement call

Tertia Allan on
071-481 1066

Source: UK NRS January 1990 - June 1990.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

شركة التعليم

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION



AIGLON SWITZERLAND

the British international (HMC) boarding school for 280 boys and girls aged 10-18 invites applications for entry in 1991.

Aiglon provides a balanced and broadly based programme of activity and opportunity which gives its boys and girls an appreciation of the needs of the whole person, mind, body and spirit. The academic programme is rigorous and prepares students for GCSE and A level examinations as well as American exams. Academic study is complemented by a high degree of pastoral care and a challenging programme of outdoor activities including ski-ing and mountain expeditions. The school has 6 senior boarding houses and a separate Junior School for 50 boys and girls, all situated on a south facing slope at 4000ft in the Swiss Alps.

Representatives of the school will be present at the ISIS schools exhibition at the Novotel, Hammersmith, London, on 24 & 25 November. Further information can also be obtained from the school by writing to:

The Headmaster
Aiglon College, Dept. E
1885 Chertsey-Villars
Switzerland

Tel: 41 25 35 27 21

Fax: 41 25 35 28 11

Telex: 456211 ACOL CH

RAVENSTONE HOUSE

— Pre-School & Day Care Centre —

A teacher is urgently required, preferably with some Arabic, although this is not essential. To take a group of Kuwaiti children aged between 5 and 8 years based in Central London for a temporary period.

Please phone 0908 642111 for further details

ELLOUGH SCHOOL

Beccles, Suffolk

Specialist provision for children with learning problems (eg Dyslexia), Co-educational boarding and day 7-13 years.

- Full curriculum
- Individual tuition
- Wide range of stimulating activities
- Caring family atmosphere

For more details contact Ian Churnock Ellough School, The Grange Church Road, Ellough, Nr Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TR. Tel: 0502 717139

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Sandy Lane, Cobham Surrey KT11 2ES (HMC 11-18 Boarding & Day - 360 Pupils Founded 1813)

- Recently equipped laboratories
- Latest facilities for Computing, CDT, Printing, Electronics
- New Theatre opened September 1990
- Artificial turf pitch, Sports Hall, Swimming Pool
- CCF Contingent, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Academic and music awards at 11, 13 and 16
- Substantial Foundation bursaries for children of single parents
- Through death or divorce
- Assisted Places at 11 and 13

Enquiries to: The Headmaster, Cobham (0932) 60076 Prospective available on request. Visitors most welcome.

QUEENSWOOD (G.S.A.)

INDEPENDENT GIRLS BOARDING SCHOOL 11-18

A number of SCHOLARSHIPS up to 50% full fees are awarded annually. These are open to girls of ages 11-12, 13-14 on September 1st to the year of entry and to girls entering the Sixth Form. Winifred Turner Girls' Music Scholarship is also available biennially up to two-thirds full fees (last available 1990) to girls aged 11-12 with musical studies. In addition there is a special award for Music (up to 50% full fees) and Tennis Scholarships (not available 1991).

Details from The Headmaster, Queenswood School, Hatfield, Herts AL9 6NS. Tel: 077 5224.

Maple Hayes School

From the... All kids of ages 11-18... To the... Long sighted means that things in the distance are clearer than things are in life.

ABNALLS LANE LICHFIELD STAFFS TEL 0543 264387 Principal Dr E N Broom PhD MSc BA MSc (Psychology) Boarding and Day school for boys aged 7-16 years. Normal curriculum Approved by the DES as a school especially for Dyslexic children.

7th January 1991 NETWORK AND DATA COMMUNICATIONS

AS/400 Operations RPG Programming LANS, WANS and Networking Software

Applicants must have 2 A levels, preferably be under 30 and be committed to working hard for this intensive course. If you are interested please attend one of the following seminars:

Any Tuesday or Thursday at 2pm
31 October - 7th or 14th
November at 6pm

071 388 6552
JJP CONSULTANTS

Euston House, 81-183 Euston St, NW1 2ET
Training Agency Funded

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A RECEPTIONIST...AND MORE?

Small, friendly publishing company (sports magazines) needs a capable, experienced receptionist with good communication and typing skills. (NP training available). Vast range of administrative duties and key work. Working with subscribers and readers. Must have initiative and be able to work with minimum supervision. Non-Smoker. Passkey. Permanent. Salary negotiable. No Agencies.

Please write with CV, stating current remuneration to: Denise Vassallo, Standard Leisure Magazines, 57/71 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7EH

AGE 20-28 Pure Reception. This is a fantastic opportunity for a young person to gain experience in a fast-paced, friendly environment. The company is looking for a Receptionist who is confident, outgoing and has good communication skills. The role involves greeting visitors, answering the phone and general office duties. The successful candidate will receive a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send your CV to: Receptionist, 123 Main Street, London EC1A 1AA.

RECEPTIONIST with good communication skills and typing skills. The company is looking for a Receptionist who is confident, outgoing and has good communication skills. The role involves greeting visitors, answering the phone and general office duties. The successful candidate will receive a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send your CV to: Receptionist, 123 Main Street, London EC1A 1AA.

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Join this rapidly expanding international company as receptionist/telephonist. You will be very well presented with a first class telephone manner and professional attitude. Previous experience in this field needed. Typing 35 wpm and aged 18-20+ essential. Smart modern offices with a busy and friendly atmosphere.

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£14,300 p.a. rising to £17,000 p.a.

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Conditions of service include a generous annual leave entitlement; optional contributory 'final salary' pension scheme; and an interest-free annual season ticket loan (after 6 months).

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The Personnel Department, City of London Polytechnic, 31 Jewry Street, London EC3N 2EY quoting ref. 90/185. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Monday 12th November 1990.

The Polytechnic is an equal opportunities employer. We will positively consider a policy of equal opportunities for all. We look forward to receiving suitable applications from all sections of the community which will be considered on merit regardless of sex, age, race, ethnic origin, marital status, responsibility for dependants, sexual orientation or disability.

FACE THE FUTURE

£14,700 + BENEFITS

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Please telephone 071-408-0247 for more information

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PERSONAL ASSISTANT WITH SPANISH CENTRAL LONDON £15,000

Pyfies Group Ltd., a leading importer and distributor of fresh fruit and produce, requires a Spanish speaking Personal Assistant for its Banquet Operations Department.

Reporting to the Director, you will provide him, with full administrative and secretarial support, and maintain cover during his considerable overseas travel.

The successful candidate will have a high level of fluency in both written and spoken Spanish, with a minimum of five years experience in a secretarial position.

Applications with full CV, to be made in writing to: Anne M. Morfitt, Assistant Group Personnel Manager, Pyfies Group Ltd., 12 York Gate, Regent Park, London NW1 4DL.

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The Personnel Department, City of London Polytechnic, 31 Jewry Street, London EC3N 2EY quoting ref. 90/185. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Monday 12th November 1990.

The Polytechnic is an equal opportunities employer. We will positively consider a policy of equal opportunities for all. We look forward to receiving suitable applications from all sections of the community which will be considered on merit regardless of sex, age, race, ethnic origin, marital status, responsibility for dependants, sexual orientation or disability.

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For further details and an application form, please write to:

Match report, page 34
Hanley profile, page 16